



HIGH HOPES

Paying tribute to the local heroes

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Scott enquiry: a double inquisition

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Four Serb jets shot down by Nato

19-minute action is alliance's first taste of battle

By Peter Riddell, Wolfgang Münchau, Joel Brand and Our Foreign Staff

FOUR Serb warplanes returning from a bombing mission were shot down over Bosnia-Herzegovina yesterday in Nato's first offensive action in its 45-year history.

The Serb light attack aircraft had twice ignored warnings to leave the United Nations' no-fly zone before American F16 fighters brought them down with heat-seeking missiles. Two other Serb planes escaped.

The action, just before 7 am yesterday, marked the alliance's first military intervention in the two-year-old conflict and was endorsed not only by the West, but also by Russia, which traditionally favours the Serbs.

Within an hour, the Serbs were attacking Tuzla with heavy artillery, but Manfred Woerner, the Nato secretary-general, predicted that the incident would help to contain the fighting in Bosnia, rather than broaden it. "We say what we mean," he said. "It's better not to provoke Nato. Escalation can only lead to more violence on all sides."

Admiral Mike Boorda, the Nato commander in southern Europe had earlier described how the Serb aircraft had

twice been told to land and twice ignored the instruction. "We reacted exactly as we told them we would," Admiral Boorda said. "If it was a test, I think we passed the quiz. I would hope that the warring factions would understand that and that the response would be not to violate again."

According to Nato sources, the no-fly zone has been violated hundreds of times by all three warring factions using helicopters to ferry men and materiel and to evacuate wounded. But Admiral Boorda said that yesterday's incident was the first confirmed violation by fixed-wing aircraft since Nato began Operation Deny Flight. "Violation of the no-fly zone like we saw today simply will not be tolerated and if we can engage we will engage," he said.

The six Serb Soko Jastreb Galeb aircraft are believed to have attacked the Muslim-held town of Bugojno and a munitions factory in Novi Travnik and were on their way back to the Serb air force's headquarters in Banja Luka when they were intercepted and shot down in a 19-minute engagement. The fate of the pilots is not known.

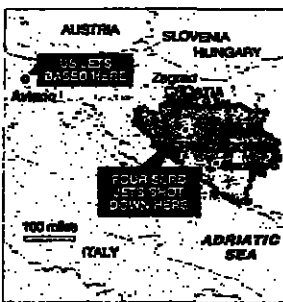
A pair of American F16 fighters based in Italy had tracked the planes from the moment they took off from Banja Luka just before dawn and had issued two "land or be engaged" warnings. Lieutenant General Sir Michael Rose, the UN commander in Bosnia, said: "They continued with their attack and the first two were shot down. Two minutes later, the next pair was still continuing and they were also shot down." The third pair reportedly escaped out of Bosnian airspace.

UN relief operations in the republic were suspended in case there was a Serb backlash, but apart from the attack on Tuzla, there was little response. Serb officials said that none of their planes had been in action yesterday and that none were missing.

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader who arrived in Moscow yesterday, said:



US F16s over Bosnia: two of them brought down four Serb aircraft with heat-seeking missiles yesterday. The Serbs had defied Nato attacking a Bosnian munitions factory



"We are checking Nato information. We simply do not know the truth yet. We will soon know what happened, whether it was a Croatian or Serbian flight or some training or combat flight."

Russia supported Nato's action in shooting down the planes, but did not concede that the Serbs were guilty. "Whoever carried out the military sortie over Bosnia in violation of the corresponding UN Security Council resolutions on a no-fly zone, it is they who bear full responsibility for what happened," the foreign ministry said.

In America, where John Major is visiting President

Clinton, both leaders strongly supported the Nato action. The Prime Minister said the Bosnian Serbs could expect nothing else as they had plainly infringed the no-fly zone. "There was no reason for those planes to be there," he said. "They were there with hostile intent."

Mr Clinton said: "Every attempt was made to the best of our information to avoid this encounter. Our mandate from the UN was to enforce the no-fly zone to eliminate the prospect that the war could be carried into the air."

Mr Major said he did not expect retaliation against British troops providing humanitarian assistance with the UN in Bosnia, and there were in any event contingency arrangements to make sure they were secure. Like Vice-President Al Gore and Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, he thought the incident could improve the chances of peace by strengthening the UN's position.

19-minute challenge, page 17
Peter Brookings, page 20

Smoke pours from munitions factory as Serb aircraft launch missile attack

A BELCHING pall of black smoke several hundred feet high poured from the Bratstvo munitions factory in Novi Travnik yesterday as flames engulfed oil storage tanks in the complex after an early morning air strike by the Bosnian Serbs.

The main entrance was left little more than a smouldering shell of twisted aluminium shards, surrounded by charred fragments of trees blown down in the nine-minute attack. Craters two metres wide and up to a metre deep punctured the tarmac, while glass and concrete chips covered the ground around the soot-covered buildings that survived the explosions. But the Serbs — later shot down by Nato planes — missed the munitions stores, and nobody was hurt.

Salih Zildum was on guard



Anthony Loyd, who has just been named Foreign Stringer of the Year, reports from a munitions factory in Novi Travnik on the aftermath of the Serbian bombing mission that led to the first offensive action by Nato warplanes yesterday

at the factory entrance when the Serbs struck. "I heard planes above me, but thought it nothing unusual," he said. "Then a massive detonation threw me out of my chair. I crawled away into a ditch as another two planes came in. They were firing cannons continuously, as well as rockets."

Another witness, Zijad Mehic, a Bosnian military policeman, identified the planes. "As I heard the explosions I looked up and saw a Galeb fly overhead, no more than 300 metres above me. I could clearly see the Serb flag

held munitions factory, shortly before 6.45 am, was preceded by another strike on the town of Bugojno, held by the Bosnian army since a battle with Croat forces last August. There, at least seven rockets were fired by Bosnian Serb jets into an unspecified target, according to UN sources who could not confirm the extent of damage or casualties.

The Serbian aircraft, all believed to be Soko G4 Super-Corvettes, were shot down by Nato F16 Super-Fighters.

Continued on page 2, col 5

HOW THE PLANES COMPARE

F16

Length: 48ft 3in
Wingspan: 32ft 10in
Height: 16ft 8.5in
Range: 575 miles
Top speed: above Mach 2
Weight empty: 16,234lbs

SOKO Galeb Jastreb

Length: 33ft 11in
Wingspan: 34ft 4in
Height: 10ft 9in
Range: 770 miles
Top speed: 506mph
Weight empty: 5,775lbs

Major stresses harmony in White House talks

FROM PETER RIDDELL IN WASHINGTON

BRITAIN and America have put their past differences behind them and their policies on Bosnia and Russia are now closely aligned, John Major said yesterday after discussions in Washington with senior members of the Clinton

Administration. The same theme of harmony was taken up by his American hosts on the first full day of the Prime Minister's visit to America and this was reflected in the announcement of agreed positions on these issues.

During Mr Major's hour-long meeting with him at the White House, Al Gore, the Vice-President, was keen to deny recent suggestions of differences between London and Washington. He said they bore no relation to the "warm state of relations". Mr Gore said the "world system worked better when the US consulted with Britain in the first place".

The present situation in Russia dominated the Prime Minister's meeting with the Vice-President, after which he stressed the importance of maintaining support for reform policies. In earlier discussions with senior foreign policy officials, including Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, Mr Major said the West could "not walk away from Boris Yeltsin".

Mr Major, meeting leading congressmen on Capitol Hill, said offering support to Mr Yeltsin and his allies was right since to do otherwise would encourage the old guard to abandon reform. It

was "a huge prize to have if Russia could become a stable democracy".

Mr Major also stressed in his talks with the Vice-President the advantages to Russia of becoming linked more formally with Nato. Russia has still not replied to the invitation issued in mid-January by Nato leaders at their summit when they adopted the Partnership for Peace programme outlining various ways of co-operation in training, exercises and consultation.

Mr Major said this programme would be enhanced by Russian participation and it would be in the West's interests for this to happen. British and American officials are also discussing what special treatment beyond Partnership for Peace can be offered to Russia to reflect its unique position.

He faced sceptical questions from congressmen about whether it was any longer right to continue this partnership in view of what was happening in Russia. He also faced questioning about Hong Kong and about Ireland, where he tried to deal with some of the American doubts about last December's initiative.

Peter Brookings, page 20

Gummer joins RCs

John Gummer, Environment Secretary, has become a Roman Catholic and condemned the Church of England as a denominational "sect".

Mr Gummer's anger at the General Synod's decision to ordain women priests was clear from the exchange of letters between him and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey. Mr Gummer had visited Dr Carey to tell him of his plans. Page 2

MPs' silence

A dozen Tory MPs, including David Hunt and Sir Edward Heath, have disobeyed rules requiring them to give details of their financial exposure to the Lloyd's insurance market.

The MPs failed to list the syndicates with which they underwrite in the annual Register of Members' Interests. Page 9

Fire deaths arrest

Police were last night questioning a homeless man aged 34 over the fire in a pornographic cinema in which eight men died on Saturday evening.

Scotland Yard said the man was arrested after he entered Walthamstow police station, east London, voluntarily. Page 3

Heseltine evidence undermines Lyell

BY MICHAEL DYNES AND JILL SHERMAN

THE future of Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, was in question last night after a dramatic appearance by Michael Heseltine before the Scott enquiry.

Mr Heseltine said that he had refused to sign a public immunity certificate in the Matrix Churchill trial because he did not want to appear to be part of a cover-up. He said that he eventually signed a watered-down version after Sir Nicholas told him that it was his duty.

The Attorney-General last night issued a statement that his advice to ministers on public immunity had remained consistent. "The fact that it is for the court to determine the balance of the overall public interest was pointed up in Mr Heseltine's public interest immunity certificate," Sir Nicholas said.

Mr Heseltine had earlier revealed how he had clashed with Sir Nicholas over the legal advice he gave in the Matrix Churchill prosecution. After the collapse of the prosecution's case, Mr Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, told the Attorney-General that it would have been "terrible" if the three defendants had been jailed.

Mr Heseltine was expressing his anger over claims by Sir Nicholas that ministers

had a duty to sign immunity certificates, known as gagging orders, to prevent confidential government documents from being disclosed in court. Sir Nicholas later contradicted himself by claiming that ministers did not have a duty to sign such documents in every case. Mr Heseltine, who told the enquiry that he wanted the confidential documents handed over to the defence in the interests of justice, said that he found Sir Nicholas's advice incredible.

He had been particularly indignant that he had been advised to sign the gagging order for the Matrix Churchill trial, only to discover later that this so-called duty did not apply in every case.

The Opposition was quick to make capital out of the most damaging evidence yet given to Lord Justice Scott's enquiry. Robin Cook, the shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, said Mr Heseltine was the first cabinet minister to admit there was a cover-up. "It is hard to see how the Attorney-General can now survive. His role appears to have been to protect the Government rather than the course of justice," Mr Cook said.

Major warned, page 5
Geoffrey Howe, page 20
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Gummer defects to Rome and attacks 'sectarian' Church

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Environment Secretary John Gummer, an outspoken opponent of women priests, yesterday announced his defection to the Roman Catholic Church and condemned the Church of England as a denominational "sect".

His departure was greeted with sadness within the Church of England and is thought likely to encourage more waverers who oppose the ordination of women to take the road to Rome.

The depth of his feeling at the General Synod's decision in November 1992 to ordain women was clear from the exchange of letters between him and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey. Mr Gummer, the son of a canon, became a lay member of synod in 1979 and resigned a month after the decision.

Mr Gummer said yesterday: "I have become convinced there is no guarantee of orthodoxy except communion with the see of St Peter. The Catholic Church takes the lead in the battle against secularism. We who have lived for so long depending upon her protection cannot continue with honour to deny her command."

Mr Gummer visited Dr Carey to warn him that he was about to convert. In his letter,

he said that by deciding to ordain women into the priesthood "the Church of England has invited those who believed themselves members of the Catholic Church to transfer their allegiance to a denomination... and declare their adherence to a sect. That no Catholic can do."

He continued: "It is precisely because the Church of England has changed that those who have not, cannot with honour remain."

He said he still loved the Church of England. "I leave with no sense of bitterness save at my own sense of failure to convince the synod of the damage it would do."

Dr Carey questioned Mr Gummer's assertion that the Church of England had become a sect. He said the Church had never denied that the Methodist and United Reformed churches, with the Catholic churches, were part of the "Holy, catholic church".

He said Mr Gummer failed to give due weight "to the fact that, at the Reformation, our church 'reformed' itself in the light of scripture". Dr Carey denied that the decision to ordain women was a change in catholic faith and order. "This decision is not a step away from catholic order but rather a maintenance of it."

Dr Carey accused Mr Gummer of denigrating "our sister churches" by the use of words such as "sect" and "sectarian" in this context.

Mr Gummer's departure was in marked contrast to that of his Tory colleague and predecessor on the road to Rome, the employment minister Ann Widdecombe, who was received into the Catholic Church with much publicity.

Although both were received into the Catholic Church by Fr Michael Seed, the Franciscan friar who is canonical officer at Archbishop's House, Westminster, the publicity surrounding Mr Gummer's private ceremony at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Westminster, on Sunday was minimal.

It is understood that Mr Gummer's wife and four children, although sympathetic to Catholicism, were not received with him. It is considered possible that they might become Catholics later.

Mr Gummer told his local bishop, the Rt Rev John Dennis, of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, about his decision in a telephone call on Saturday. Bishop Dennis said: "I am saddened he has left but I feel it was an inevitable step for him. We all have to follow our own journey of faith."



Mr Gummer after announcing his decision to convert to the Catholic Church

Unionists pull out of peace talks

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Ulster Unionists delivered a severe and potentially fatal rebuff to the Anglo-Irish peace initiative yesterday by refusing to return to the multi-party constitutional talks that broke up at the end of 1992.

James Molyneux shook the Government by opposing the reopening of the "three strand" process by which John Major had hoped to give renewed impetus to the faltering Downing Street declaration, and by effectively pronouncing the Anglo-Irish effort dead.

In a significant hardening of attitudes, Mr Molyneux said: "We are at a watershed. The

experiment which the two governments felt they had to embark on with the declaration has now run its course."

The Government last night voiced its desire to press ahead with its approach of encouraging talks between the Ulster parties, between Belfast and Dublin, and between Dublin and London as a way of adding to the pressure on Sinn Féin to renounce violence and come to the negotiating table. "We are not going to despair," a senior official said.

However, with Mr Molyneux withdrawing the co-operation of Ulster's main unionist party and making

plain his opposition to the involvement of Dublin in an internal settlement for Northern Ireland, it was difficult to see how it could succeed.

Senior Tory MPs believe Mr Molyneux's stance is also prompted by a need to prevent the more hardline Democratic Unionists, led by Ian Paisley, running away with the local vote in the European elections.

Mr Molyneux's tough line coincided with publication by the Unionists of their own proposals for political advance. A *Blueprint for Stability* proposes an 85-member assembly for Northern Ire-

land, elected by proportional representation and executive power exercised through departmental committees whose leadership would be in proportion to party strengths in the assembly.

John Hume, the SDLP leader, regretted the Unionist announcement. "It is common sense that there are three sets of relationships that have to be resolved and they can only be resolved by agreement," he said. "Anyone who wants to depart from that does not want lasting stability. Perhaps they want power back into their own hands; but that is not going to happen."

Hospital tours put joyriders off crime

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

MERSEYSIDE hospital authorities are using aversion therapy to confront teenage joyriders with the human cost of their escapades. The scheme has cut the reoffending rate to less than a third of the national average.

Young people convicted of motoring offences in Liverpool are taken on a tour of the local hospital casualty department, shown graphic colour slides of accident victims and are introduced to their relatives.

The tactics, intended to bring home to the offenders the consequences of their actions, have cut the reoffending rate to 18 per cent, compared with a national average of 69 per cent, since the scheme was introduced in November 1992.

Dr Chris Luke, consultant in the Accident and Emergency Department at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital said: "We start by showing them trivial injuries. Then we take them through more and more severe injuries — amputations and extensive skin wounds — culminating with horrific fatal injuries, all of which have resulted from road traffic accidents."

"The young people leave here extremely subdued. It's a kind of visual vaccination against further crimes."

Scan faults showed live babies were dead

THE NHS may adopt new procedures on ultrasound scanning after three women were wrongly told their unborn babies were dead.

A public enquiry opened yesterday by South Glamorgan Health Authority is expected to make recommendations for changes after investigating how mistakes were made at University Hospital, Cardiff.

Marina Jones, 25, told a medical panel she was twice given a faulty diagnosis, the first in September 1990 when staff told her the scan showed no heartbeat from her baby.

Her husband Kieran, a former ambulance driver, insisted on a second opinion before any arrangements were made to remove the "dead" foetus. Another scan 20 minutes later confirmed that her son Rhys, now nearly three, was alive.

Mrs Jones, from St Mellons, Cardiff, said she was assured by a doctor that procedures would change but was shocked and upset again when the same thing happened in October last year. Then she was told she had had a miscarriage, only to discover on a second scan three days later that the baby was still alive.

Two other mothers told of similar experiences. The enquiry, chaired by Janet Case, a barrister, is expected to last several days.

Time to grab your partners for the Boothroyd hustle

I have to say, I beam at Betty Boothroyd yesterday. "I am agreeably surprised," Madam Speaker was giving a rare pat on the head to the boys and girls at her Westminster academy. For once they were doing as they told.

The story starts last Thursday when an exasperated Miss Boothroyd told MPs that their questions were getting more rambling by the week. And in place of answers, the Speaker complained, ministers were giving lectures.

Ever fewer questions to ministers were now dealt with, most never being reached before time was up. From that day forth, she declared, she expected short, single and snappy questions, "and brisk replies".

So MPs were to turn over a new leaf. Miss Boothroyd will forgive me if I confess that in our hearts we said: "Some chance, Betty!" Well, we were wrong. At the first test of obedience to Betty's new regime, MPs have come through with flying colours.

I admit I missed the first 18 questions to social security ministers. Interested in Michael Lord's question 11, about the Child Support Agency, I arrived before 3.10, when I reckoned it might just be reached. Forty minutes for ten questions is about par for the course.

I walked in. "Question 19," shouted Madam Speaker. Few could miss the note of triumph in her voice. Derek Enright (Lab, Hemsworth) rose.

Now Derek Enright is a fine fellow, but if you wanted a word for his style, "succinct" would not spring to your lips. A retired classics teacher with a solemn, schoolmasterly manner, he once sang *Yellow Submarine* in the House, slowly, in Latin.

Yesterday he skipped like a spring lamb through his question on unemployment benefit. A quick rap over ministers' knuckles then a

clear, sharp enquiry. He was rewarded with a snappy reply from junior minister Alistair Burt. Two short bursts of statistical fire, and young Burt sat down. The smile on Miss Boothroyd's face broadened.

But it was Overseas Development questions, ten minutes later, which offered the real test. MPs are in a rather about aid to Malaysia's Pergau dam and declined to be silenced; the minister in charge, Alastair Goodlad, has patrician splendour, but a one-paced, officer-class delivery. You do not hustle a Goodlad.

So we had thought. But Betty did hustle. Labour's Barbara Roche and her colleagues kept their questions (about Malaysian trade aid links) unbelievably short. Goodlad rose and began to read out a long, prepared reply, glancing warily at the Chair, and very slightly speeding up his delivery. Prompted by the Labour benches, Madam Speaker rose. She adopted her Joyce Grenfell voice, the tone, if not the words, saying: "Alastair, stop doing that."

The minister will know that I've asked for brisk answers. Goodlad took the hint but — finding it hard to break the habit of a lifetime, compromise his dignity and gabble — took the rest of his answer at an ungainly canter, like a pedigree Aberdeen Angus being hurried down the lane by a farm girl with a stick.

All this must have put the wind up Michael Fabricant (C, Mid "Wuffs"). So concerned was he to be concise, that his question — were we not the sixth largest aid donor in the world? — emerged in a curious pocus. "Britain is equal to six in the world?" he asked. Even the Aberdeen Angus was left floundering for a dignified response.

"Tomorrow," smiled Miss B to the class, "I want us to do even better."

Children found safe after night in forest

A party of 18 schoolchildren and five adult leaders were rescued from a mountain in Co Wicklow yesterday after spending a freezing night huddled in a forest. The group from a Dublin youth club, aged between seven and 18, went missing on a three-mile walk on Sunday.

A climber, who died in an avalanche in Glencoe, Strathclyde, on Sunday night was named yesterday as Dimitris Andrikopoulos, 23, a Greek student studying at Aberdeen University. He was the fifteenth mountaineer to die on the Scottish hills this year.

Boy on murder charge

A 15-year-old boy appeared before a special hearing of magistrates in Kettering, Northamptonshire, charged with the murder of Mary Archer, 90, who was found dead at her flat in Kettering on Saturday. A post-mortem examination found she had been strangled. The boy was remanded to a local authority secure unit until March 7.

Girl awarded £1,150,000

Kayleigh Bourn, 6, of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, was awarded £1,150,000 in the High Court for brain damage suffered during birth at Hemel Hempstead general hospital in 1987. Staff ignored foetal distress, and the lack of oxygen caused cerebral palsy, Mr Justice Tuckey was told. North West Hertfordshire Health Authority admitted liability.

IRA arms trial starts

Four Irishmen and two Americans go on trial in Arizona today charged with conspiring to ship arms, bomb parts and a Stinger missile to the IRA. Prosecutors say the men sent 3,000 detonators on a bus from Tucson to New York in 1989. They are also charged with attempting to buy weapons.

Silence in Gardner case

Scotland Yard and the Crown Prosecution Service have refused to comment on reports that the Police Complaints Authority investigation into the death last year of Mrs Joy Gardner, an illegal immigrant, recommended three police officers in the case should be prosecuted.

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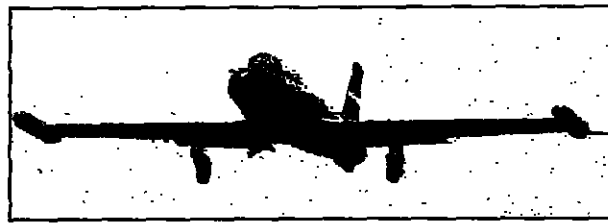
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The Serb Galeb: a version was used in the attack

Serb missile attack

Continued from page 1
Galebs, were shot down by the American F16s as they returned to their aerodrome in Banja Luka and they had ignored requests to land. The pilots' fates remain unknown.

That news was greeted with a degree of jubilation by UN troops, in spite of its implications for their security. "It had to happen," a smiling British liaison officer in Vitez said. Both Croats and Muslims seemed equally delighted; the first time they have agreed on anything for more than a year.

"This is fine with us; it should have happened a long time ago," said a Bosnian soldier, while a Croatian fighter described it as "the most exciting news of the war".

The Bratsvo factory is a vital link to the largely-Muslim Bosnian army's ammunition production.

Though desperately short of heavy weapons or sophisticated equipment, the Muslims have harnessed a number of former JNA factories to manufacturing small arms ammunition, including sites of Tesanj, Jablanica, Kofic,

Bugojno and Novi Travnik. Bratsvo has become a favourite target for Serbs and Croats alike. In the autumn of 1992 it was extensively damaged by Serb artillery, and five weeks ago a Croatian helicopter evaded Nato planes to make an ineffective dawn missile raid on the site.

"As a military factory, and is very important to us. But it is even more important to the Serbs that it is destroyed," said Hamed Mesanovic, a Bosnian liaison officer in Travnik.

The action marks a high-lit Serb arrogance in the wake of their humiliation around Sarajevo. A Serb assault continued for the third day around the besieged town of Maglaj, while Tuzla was again under Serb shell fire. However if General Ratko Mladic expected Nato inaction in this instance, he seriously miscalculated. What could have boosted Serb will as a decisive and defiant operation ended ingloriously in the loss of four of their aircraft and a confrontation both sides have sought to avoid.

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The rescue: Norman Tebbit in the ruined hotel

Tebbits see rescuer start life afresh

By ROBIN YOUNG

LORD and Lady Tebbit were yesterday reunited with the fireman who rescued them from the wreckage of Grand Hotel, Brighton, ten years ago.

Helping to launch a £5 million appeal for a charity working with the disabled, the Tebbits also launched former Station Officer Fred Bishop on a new career as a domestic appliance engineer. Mr Bishop won an MBE for his gallantry on the night the IRA bombed the Grand Hotel during the 1984 Conservative Party conference. It was to him that Norman Tebbit said: "Get off my bloody feet, Fred," as the fire brigade worked to ease the injured minister and his paralysed wife from the debris.

Mr Bishop was invalided out of the service in 1990 suffering neck and back problems, deafness in one ear and

sudden losses of balance. "If you cannot stand up you cannot be a fireman," Mr Bishop said yesterday, "but I was horrified to be told I was disabled. I went from being a leader of men to someone who could only sit in the front of the television and cry."

He became so depressed that he contemplated suicide and wrote a letter he intended to leave for his wife, Shirley. He was saved, he said, by the support of his family and a nine-month residential course at a training college run by Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for the Disabled at Leatherhead, Surrey.

Yesterday, at the launch of the foundation's £5 million diamond jubilee appeal, Lord and Lady Tebbit presented to Mr Bishop the diploma certifying his successful completion of the retraining course.

Lord Tebbit said: "I have



The reunion: Fred Bishop with Lord and Lady Tebbit at the launch of the £5 million appeal for Queen Elizabeth's Foundation

been known as someone who was very independent, perhaps arrogant, and inclined to think he could do everything for himself. Fred Bishop taught me differently. He is the only man with whom I have desperately held hands and told him not to let go.

That is a very special relationship."

Lady Tebbit said: "I was very sad when I heard of Fred's troubles but we knew that he was a fighter. It is just marvellous that he has got through his troubles. You have to go down to come up.

but having been in a similar situation I can say there really always is a way up if there is someone there to help you find it."

Lady Tebbit, who was originally paralysed from the neck down, is able to move her arms, support her weight

and walk a few steps with assistance. She can also ride a horse. "That thrills me most of all," Mr Bishop said. "You cannot imagine the pleasure it gives me to see her so much improved."

The £5 million appeal is to fund an Ability Centre at

Leatherhead as a showpiece for the education, training and rehabilitation of the disabled. Events include a Disability Awareness Week in June, when the violinist Itzhak Perlman will give a concert at the Festival Hall in aid of the appeal.

Death fire cinema was prosecuted three times

By LIN JENKINS

POLICE and council officials had three times prosecuted the cinema where eight people died in an arson attack for not having a licence and showing obscene material.

The Dream City club in central London had planning consent to operate as a private club cinema but was not licensed to admit non-members.

Ian Crawley, Islington council's assistant director of technical and environmental services, said the fines imposed by the courts — with a maximum of £20,000 — were insufficient to deter people operating illegally. "Whatever we do, it is the owner of the building and the operator who are responsible for the health and safety of people."

The fire brigade had approved safety precautions in 1990, and the council was yesterday unable to comment on reports that the fire escape had been blocked up. It will carry out a site inspection today.

Seven of the 16 people badly injured in the fire on Saturday evening were said to be still in a critical condition.

Five of the eight who died were named yesterday as Maurice Wilson Payne, 54, an electrician of Gravesend, Kent; Lewis Barber, 41, an administrator, of Clerkenwell, central London; Rupert Bennett, 43, a hairdresser, of Ilford, Essex; Derek Boughton, of Hammersmith, west London; and Raymond Morley, 52, a driver, of Wood Green, north London.

PC fired unloaded revolver into Hill's cell, appeal is told

By A STAFF REPORTER

A FORMER detective told the High Court in Belfast yesterday how he watched a colleague fire his unloaded gun through a cell hatch at Guildford police station where Paul Hill was being held.

He heard the sound of at least two clicks of the hammer falling on the empty chamber of a Smith and Wesson .38 revolver, the court was told.

The officer holding the gun, he claimed, was PC Gerry Queen, whom he described as an "oddball and a loner". At the time, Hill and other suspects were in custody at the station after the Guildford and Woolwich bombings almost 20 years ago.

The allegation was made on the fourth day of Hill's appeal in Belfast where he is challenging his conviction and life sentence for the murder of a former soldier who was kidnapped and shot dead by IRA terrorists in the city in 1974.

The former detective, identified as witness B because of "security considerations", did not say if anyone was in the cell at the time, but Hill's lawyers have claimed their client was induced to make a false confession to his part in

the murder of Brian Shaw because of threats against him.

It has been alleged in papers submitted to the court that a gun was pointed into a cell and an officer shouted: "That is all for you, you bastard."

Witness B, a member of the Surrey Constabulary for 18 years until 1983, was on armed duty inside the police station on the night in November 1974 when Hill was being held. He was standing between the station office and the cell complex and he said PC Queen was also there.

The officer said he heard the click of a hammer falling on the chamber of a gun being held outstretched by PC Queen, who was pointing it into a hatch, but that PC Queen had not said anything.

He said: "He turned and looked at me. He had a peculiar expression on him. It was more of a leer across his face. To be honest I walked away. I was rather disgusted."

He said he did not report what he had seen to senior officers because it would have been pointless. "I did not feel anything I said or did would either have been listened to or

acted on. I believe that the feeling in the station at that particular time was such that they had arrested the person responsible for the bombings." In retrospect, he said he should have said something.

He told the Lord Chief Justice, Sir Brian Hutton, of his time on duty with PC Queen at Catwick Airport when, as armed officers, they patrolled the main concourse including passport control and the customs area.

Witness B said that on more than one occasion PC Queen appeared from behind large pillars with a gun in his hand and a "silly leer across his face".

He said of PC Queen: "I find him an oddball. He was a loner but I had never any cause to ruck with him before or since."

Under cross examination by the Lord Chief Justice, Witness B also claimed PC Queen had twice "boasted" about the incident with the gun — once in Guildford later that night and again at Godalming a few days later.

The appeal continues.

Meddling Kennedys, page 18

MoD man accused of corruption

A TOP Ministry of Defence official took backhanders to help a friend win contracts to supply hardware to the British Army, a court was told yesterday.

Bernard Trevelyan was paid a £2,000 bribe to write a 40-page detailed report for a parts supply firm while he was the MoD's director of light armoured engineering systems, said Paul Dodgson, for the prosecution.

The report, "Armoured Vehicles on the Battlefield", outlined how the British Army expected armoured cars to develop. Mr Trevelyan was also paid to help his friend, David Oliver, win contracts to supply machinegun mounts and specialised tyres for the Fox and Saxon armoured vehicles, Southwark Crown Court was told.

Mr Dodgson said the contracts were worth about £1 million and that Mr Oliver paid Mr Trevelyan and his wife Joyce a total of £12,500 in backhanders. He told the court that Mr Trevelyan had tried to squeeze an additional £28,500 out of Mr Oliver "in commission".

Mr Trevelyan, of Rowley Regis near Birmingham, faces seven counts of corruption and one of attempted corruption. He denies all charges. The trial continues.

Family mutinies over Bligh pictures

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

DESCENDANTS of Captain Bligh of the *Bounty* mutiny are fighting in the High Court for the return of historic family paintings which they claim were obtained by a collector who took advantage of a sick man.

The tug-of-war over a £40,000 portrait of the captain's wife, Lady Bligh, and three watercolours is being fought between the daughter of Capt Bligh's descendant, the late Peter Bligh Nutting, and Stephen Walters.

The family heirloom, painted by John Webber in 1782, was discovered to be missing

only when Mr Nutting died in April 1984. His daughter, Jennifer Bligh Innes of Bulwick, Northamptonshire, wants it back.

Her counsel, Harry Trusteed, told Mr Justice Roper that her father had inherited the portrait and the watercolours depicting the Battle of Camperdown in 1797, in which Capt Bligh served with distinction, from his grandfather in 1965.

In January 1981 Mr Nutting suffered a stroke which left him incapable of speech and paralysed down one side. When he died the pictures were not among his effects.

In March 1992 Mrs Innes discovered that Mr Walters, of Oakley, Buckinghamshire, was planning to auction the portrait at Sotheby's. She won an order freezing the sale.

Mr Walters says he paid £2,000 for the portrait and £2,000 for the watercolours. The receipts, said Mr Trusteed, were signed by a Mrs Audrey Briggs, who was then close to Mr Nutting, but who now could not be found.

Mr Walters claims a memorandum dated February 1983 transferred ownership of the watercolours to Mrs Briggs in satisfaction of a debt.

The hearing continues today.



Lady Bligh: a detail from the portrait

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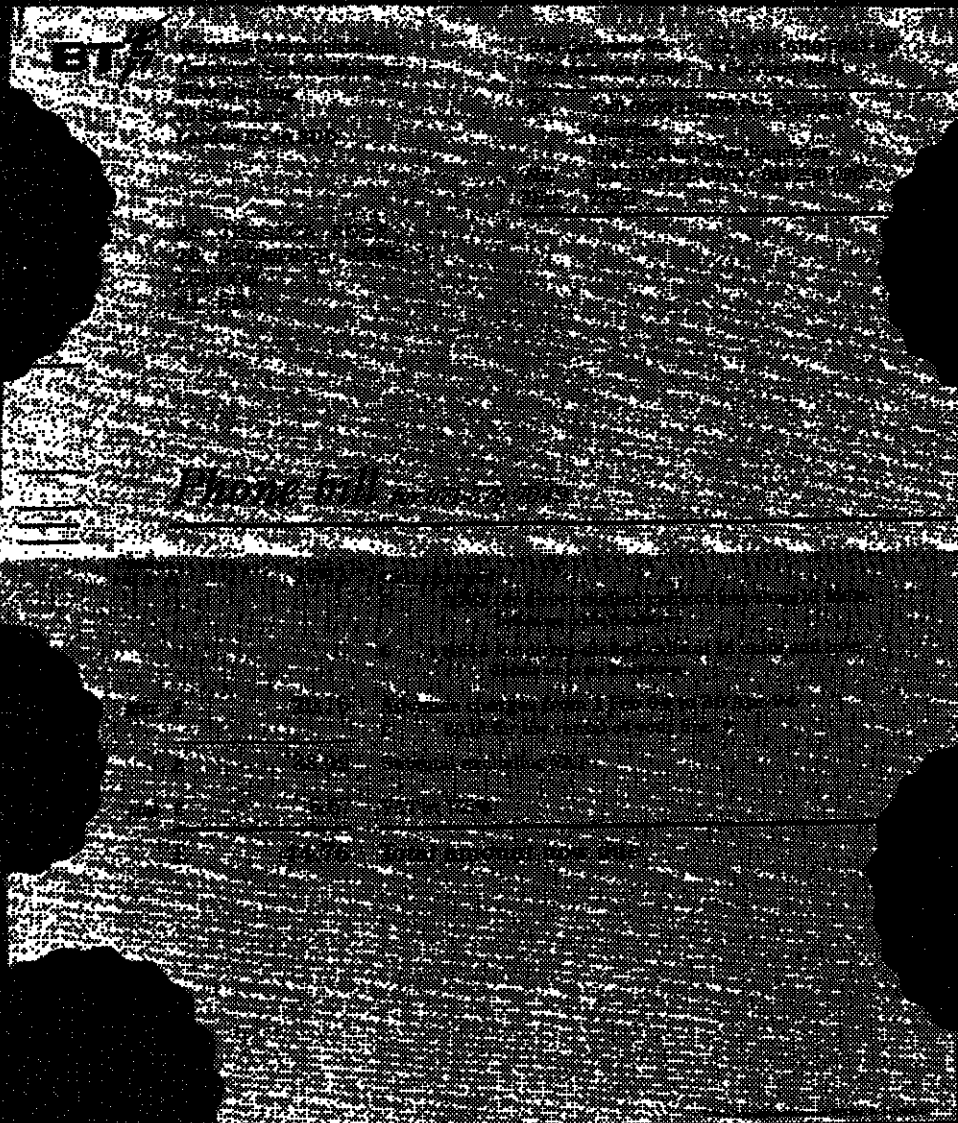
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have come down. As have those to North America. While, thanks to the new National Weekend Rate, national calls at weekends are just 10p for every three minutes. Even the cost of installing a new line has come down. And to cap it

all, on March 9th the Peak Rate for national and local calls will disappear. So, when the next bill comes, stand by to see a little less

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warned M

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The Scott enquiry Heseltine tells why he warned Major

By MICHAEL DYNES, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine told the Scott enquiry yesterday that he urged John Major not to answer any more MPs' questions on the arms-to-Iraq affair after the collapse of the Matrix Churchill trial.

The President of the Board of Trade said that he believed ministers were on "increasingly fragile ground" as new information emerged about defence sales to Iraq.

The case against the three Matrix Churchill businessmen charged with illegally selling machine tools to Iraqi weapon factories collapsed in November 1992. In the Commons debate that followed, Mr Heseltine said the guidelines on sales to Iraq had been relaxed in 1988 after the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, although Parliament had not been told.

However, a few days after the debate Nicholas Bevan, a senior Cabinet Office official, concluded after further research in Foreign Office files

that there had been no change in the policy.

Mr Heseltine sent an urgent note to the Prime Minister urging him not to answer any more MPs' questions based on the new information. He said that he was concerned that the Government was on "shifting sands" and that it should leave all questions to the Scott enquiry, which it had just announced.

"I was very concerned to say to my colleagues, 'Don't let's try to devise answers on the basis of new information which may turn out to be on fragile ground,'" he said.

Mr Heseltine described his growing unease when he was asked in 1991 to sign public interest immunity certificates that would prevent Government documents being made available to the defence in the Matrix Churchill trial.

The enquiry was given details of a Whitehall briefing document read by Mr Heseltine. It said that the

defendants were being prosecuted not because they were exporting the tools contrary to government restrictions but because they lied about them. Mr Heseltine wrote a question mark at this point on his copy of the briefing paper. He told the enquiry that he could not see why they were not being prosecuted for the actual exports.

The briefing paper pointed out that the Government had granted new export licences to the company, despite the nature of the exports. Mr Heseltine said he also discovered the security services "had been in touch with Matrix Churchill".

Mr Heseltine was eventually advised by Whitehall lawyers that he had no choice but to sign the immunity certificates in the public interest.

Lord Justice Scott's enquiry continues tomorrow.

Geoffrey Howe, page 20
Leading article, page 21



Mr Heseltine leaving the enquiry yesterday, where he told of "shifting sands"

Law chief facing his biggest trial

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Attorney General will face the test of his political career when he gives evidence to the enquiry within the next two weeks.

Sir Nicholas Lyell QC, the Government's chief law officer, yesterday seemed embattled on all sides: as he sought to fend off accusations in the Commons of secret plea-bargaining with the lawyers of the fugitive Asil Nadir, he was being castigated at the enquiry over his advice to ministers on public interest immunity.

Michael Heseltine left no doubt that if anyone was to blame for the signing of the certificates, it was Sir Nicholas with his unequivocal view that ministers had to sign.

The enquiry is just the latest political controversy in which Sir Nicholas has found himself since taking over from Sir Patrick Mayhew in 1992. The Asil Nadir affair, in which he had to admit to MPs that they were misled as a result of advice he had been given by the Serious Fraud Office, was followed by a rumpus over his advice to the Government on the social opt-out clause of the Maastricht treaty. Sir Nicholas



Sir Nicholas: "More a politician than lawyer"

Lyell, MP for Mid Bedfordshire, is by nature low profile, earnest and quietly spoken. He joined the "wet" Tories whose views were at odds with Margaret Thatcher.

He is accused by politicians of being more a lawyer than a politician; and by lawyers as more a politician than a lawyer. His standing at the Bar, where he is in one of the top commercial chambers, remains high. However, when it comes to public decision-making, critics accuse him of "washing his hands" and fearing confrontation. He is about to have the chance to prove them wrong.

Our hero owns up to his pals' errors

At last, a goody two-shoes in the dock at Lord Justice Scott's arms-for-Iraq enquiry.

Michael Heseltine — clean shirt, shined shoes, striped school tie — was the first of the many boys summoned to Headmaster Scott's study to arrive without a Latin primer secreted down the back of his shorts.

It was not that his hide is thicker than theirs, just that he felt so confident of escaping a caning. The lad was as blameless as it is possible to be — and still serve in politics.

Yes, Michael had been caught with a pluming cigarette behind the Westminster bicycle sheds with the other boys. But he had only joined them the better to keep an eye on the rascally ones. Of course he had taken a puff on his Marlboro, but that was purely to insinuate himself more credibly into his classmates' confidence. Lo, Headmaster, Michael puffed but he did not inhale.

There was no stone Michael left unturned to try to ensure that defendants in the Matrix Churchill supergun case had a fair trial. He anguished in 1991 when a senior Westminster prefect asked him to sign a gagging order which would prevent key documents being made available to Matrix Churchill's defence. He grew uneasy at the prospect of having to explain his actions if the Government's behaviour came to light. Quoting Churchill, which can impress headmasters, Michael said he decided that "up with this I will not put".

But the prefects and their bullies then told him he had no choice but to sign.

Throughout, his wife Anne sat in the spectators' gallery like an anxious mother, ready

to plead for her son not to be expelled, should Headmaster Scott show signs of doubting Michael's innocence. Every time Michael said something a tad clever, Mrs Heseltine looked trapped halfway between pride at her boy's wit and fear that Headmaster's patience was being tried.

Michael's aim was to avoid jeopardising his chance of a form prize. He told us how concerned he had been about signing the gagging order, since if the judge in the Matrix Churchill trial overruled it, it would look as though Michael had been taking part in a cover-up. That would look grim on his end-of-term report.

We left yesterday with the feeling that Michael might make Head Boy yet, although his chances have been helped by the shaky standard of the other pupils in his House. But just to make sure that he distanced himself further from his rivals, Michael blotted the copybooks of a few more of his colleagues.

When Scott asked if export controls were a tool of government, Michael replied that in most countries they were. "Recent events," he smirked, hinting at the Pergau dam fiasco, "might have indicated just how much of a tool it is!"

Of course, Michael wasn't loitering behind the Malaysian bicycle sheds, having fallen out with Margaret Thatcher, then prime minister. And Alan Clark, trade minister at the time, was not a buddy either. Nothing like shoving your old classroom enemies into the deep end if you want to make a serious splash.

JOE JOSEPH

Offenders' safaris ruled out

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE Government yesterday called for an end to foreign travel for young offenders.

John Bowis, parliamentary secretary to the Department of Health, said trips such as the £7,000 safari enjoyed by a 17-year-old joyrider, "send out the wrong messages, undermining public confidence, endangering victims and failing to deter other juveniles from committing offences".

He said: "If the credibility of local authorities is to be restored, it is essential that programmes for young offenders are genuinely challenging and make demands that they would not meet elsewhere."

The Government wanted to "strike a balance between rehabilitation, deterrence and punishment. There is in our view no sound reason for sending children on activity trips abroad. Britain has many areas ideal for challenging activities."

A letter has been sent by John Parker, assistant secretary of the department's community services division, to all social services directors in England.

Gloucestershire County Council, which sent the safari boy to the Bryn Meilyn centre, will review its policy on foreign travel at a social services committee meeting tomorrow.

Car maker launches £3,500 bike

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

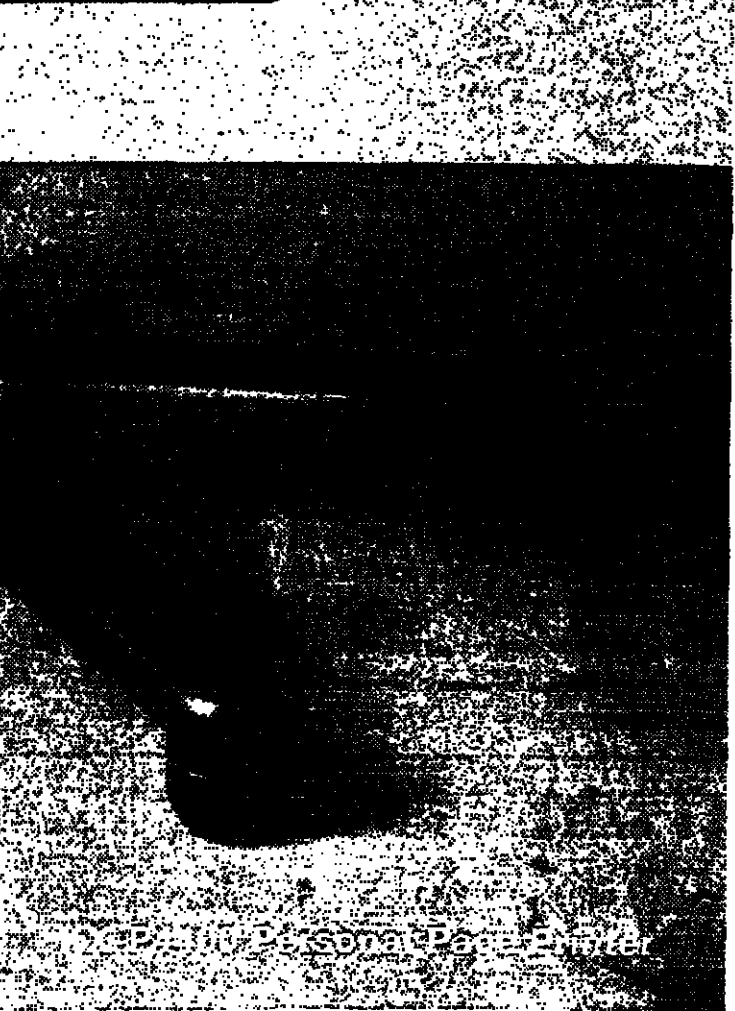
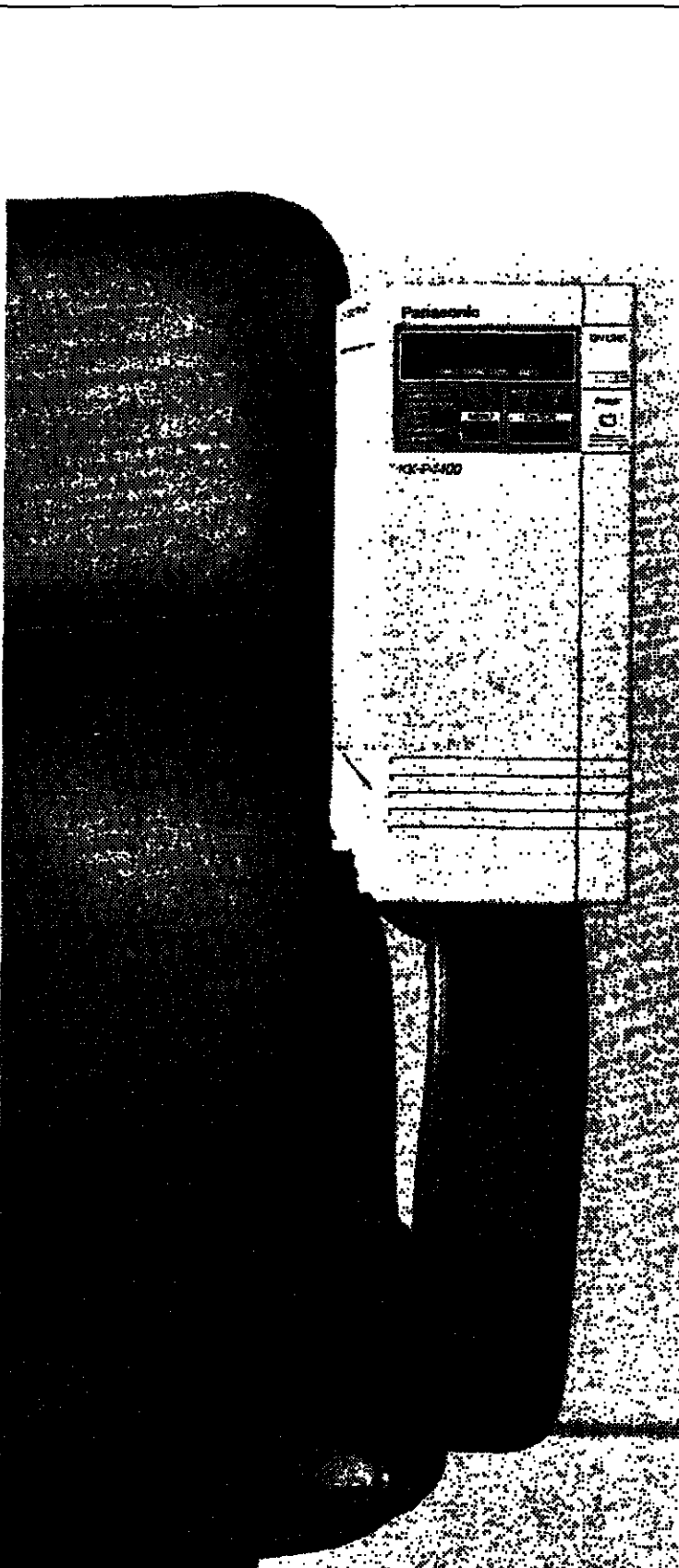
A BICYCLE that costs as much as a car will be unveiled at the Geneva motor show next week.

The mountain bike, built by Aston Martin Lagonda, will sell for £3,500 each, only £200 less than the average cost of a second-hand car in Britain. The company believes that its customers are seeking the "extras" that allow them to enjoy leisure activities beyond the usual hunting, shooting and fishing.

The company introduced a £165,000 shooting brake last year as a model big enough to cope with fishing rods and golf clubs, but "buyers wanted mountain bikes to take out into the countryside," Harry Calton, director of public affairs, said yesterday.

The bikes are custom-made with 24 gears and a steel-and-titanium frame. All the joints are soldered and filed by hand by car workers at the factory at Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire. A comfortable leather-covered saddle is fitted and, as with the car, 12 coats of paint are applied. Each bike will be finished in the same colour as the car ordered by the customer.

Aston Martin makes only 150 cars a year and the output of mountain bikes is likely to be half that total.

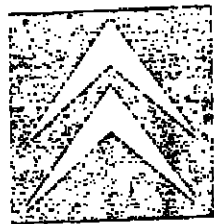


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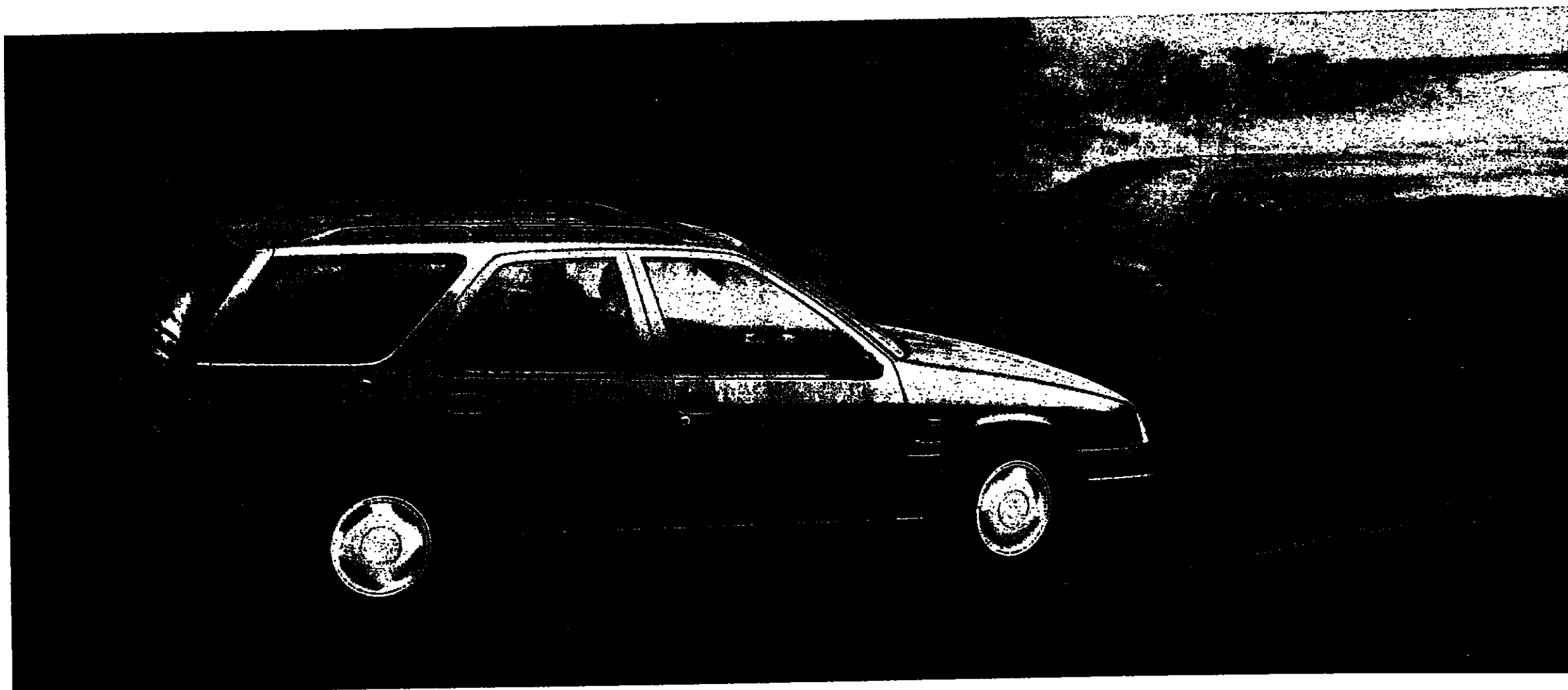
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DISCOVER WHAT CITROËN CAN DO FOR YOU.

Airport plan for Severn Estuary to be put to MPs

By Nick Nuttall and Tim Jones

AN INTERNATIONAL airport handling jumbo jets and over 20 million passengers a year is being proposed for the Severn Estuary.

Plans for the £800 million scheme, which is backed by American banks and has been spurred by the second Severn crossing, are to be presented to Parliament in the next few months. Conservation groups are opposed to the scheme, which would destroy important breeding grounds.

The project involves building an offshore runway and terminals on the southern edge of the Caldicot levels in Gwent. The levels, reclaimed from the estuary by the Romans and developed by the monks at Tintern Abbey in the Middle Ages, is an area containing six sites of special scientific interest.

Part of the airport site is in an area noted for its estuary birds and is due to be listed as a special protection area under the European Union's wildlife directive.

Conservation groups, already fighting government proposals for a £300 million motorway through the area, have promised to mount a fierce campaign against the airport, which is also designed to carry a million tonnes of freight a year.

The developers, Severnside

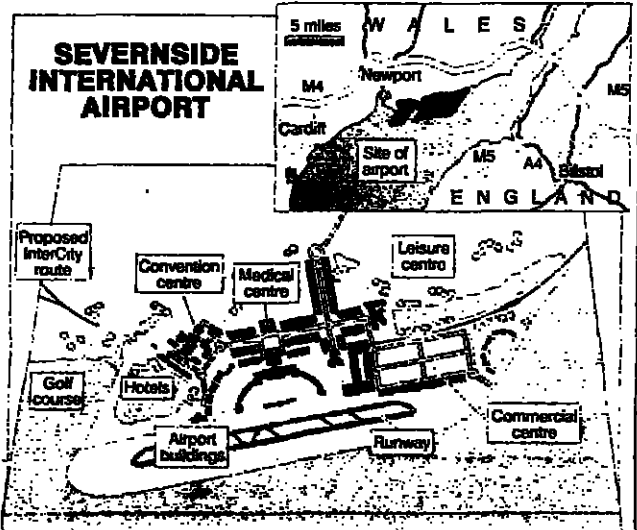
International Airport, of London, claim the scheme is vital for the economic health of Britain, with the country's other international airports reaching capacity by 2016.

Studies by the developers also indicate that American, Japanese and European firms in Wales and the South West would invest more in the region if a long-haul airport were built.

The Severnside International Airport, which is backed by Gwent County Council, has been mooted for some time. But conservationists believed the scheme had died. Yesterday, however, Peter Charles-Greene, technical director for the company, said it was weeks away from raising the £5 million needed to put the scheme to Parliament and to fund a public enquiry.

Dr Stephanie Tyler, conservation officer with the RSPB in Newtown, Powys, said yesterday that an alliance of conservationist groups formed to fight the relief road would also fight the airport. "It would be diabolical if it were permitted. The Severn is one of the top six estuaries in Britain for wildlife," she said.

Instead of developing a pristine area of high ecological value, support should be given to an expansion of Cardiff airport, she added.



James Naughtie presenting his first edition yesterday of BBC Radio 4's morning news programme *Today*, with co-presenter John Humphrys. Mr Naughtie, 42, who presented Radio 4's *The World At One* for five years, replaces Brian Redhead, who died in January. Mr Naughtie said as he left Broadcasting House: "This job is wonderful. I don't feel I will sleep for a week. I'm jangling like an alarm clock."

Sacked dockers fight for compensation

By A Staff Reporter

NEARLY 300 dockers and other port workers sacked for not accepting less pay and longer hours packed an industrial tribunal yesterday to claim £13,000 compensation.

The men believe they were edged out of their jobs at Sheerness Port, Kent, to make a privatisation deal more attractive. The 240 dockers and 30 other former staff, including clerks and security guards, are claiming unfair dismissal or breach of contract.

The hearing at Ashford is expected to last until the end of March. The tribunal panel will hear details of how the men opted to take paid leave instead of accepting new contracts when Medway Port Authority was the subject of a management and staff buy-out in 1991. They were subsequently sacked.

Dockers jeered when the company solicitor, Alan Han-

nah, told the tribunal: "It was never the management's intention that wages should be cut and redundancies made. The management team was in a desperate situation. They had to meet repayments or lose the company."

The sacked men were required to sell back their £1 shares in the new company, receiving £2.50 per share. Last September, the company was bought by Mersey Ports and Harbour Board and share prices rose to £37 each. Those workers who had stayed on made small fortunes, including the port's chief executive, Peter Vincent, who overnight became a multi-millionaire.

One of the sacked dockers, Dave Dunncliffe, said: "The far cats are sitting there with big smiles on their faces and we're struggling to make ends meet."

Bombers to relive flights of heroism

By Bill Frost

A FORMER RAF fighter pilot is to pay tribute to the "reticent heroes" of Bomber Command in a book to be published next year.

So Many, which will be limited to 401 copies costing £1,600 each, will tell the stories of 25 airmen who flew in the face of adversity to attack and destroy enemy targets.

John Golley, 70, the author commissioned by the RAF Benevolent Fund, flew 78 missions during the D-Day landings. "On every mission these men went through hell and back," he said. "No one understands what they endured. But now we are going to put them into history so their courage will never be forgotten."

Directors face charges over lorry deaths

By Paul Wilkinson

TWO directors of a haulage company are to be prosecuted after a coroner ruled yesterday that six people were unlawfully killed after the brakes failed on one of the firm's lorries and it ran out of control on a steep Pennine road.

Mark Hinchcliffe, the deputy coroner for Halifax, accused the management of Fewston Transport of "gross negligence" and a breach of their duty to ensure the brakes were properly maintained. He was speaking at the end of a three-day inquest into the deaths in last September's crash in Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire.

Mr Hinchcliffe is to write to the Department of Transport urging a revision of the examination of braking systems on heavy vehicles. The inquest had heard that none of the brakes on the eight wheels of

the 10-tonne tipper truck was working properly.

It was also said that the company, based in Skipton, North Yorkshire, had operated a financial limit on maintenance. Alex Johnstone, a former transport manager, had claimed lorries were kept on the road while awaiting repairs. The company denied this.

Mr Hinchcliffe said there had been "gross negligence to such a degree that it would, in the opinion of this coroner, justify a conviction. I find that the brakes were so grossly defective that... it created an obvious and serious risk that death would in my judgment directly result."

West Yorkshire Police confirmed that Fewston Transport and two of its directors would face charges under the Road Traffic Act.

KEENE ON CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Karpov leads

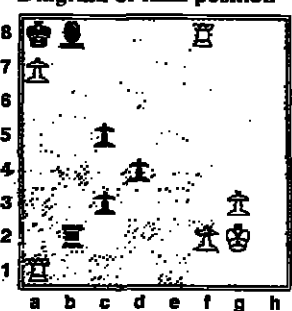
AFTER four rounds of the super-tournament in Linares, Spain, Anatoly Karpov, the Fide champion, leads with a 100 per cent score of 4 points. Garry Kasparov, the PCA champion, has 3½ points and Visly Anand has 3. The game of the round was Kasparov's duel with Vassily Ivanchuk.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Vassily Ivanchuk
Linares, February 1994

Semi-Slav Defence

1	d4	c6
2	c4	e5
3	Nc3	Qc5
4	Nf3	e6
5	Bg5	dxc4
6	e4	b5
7	e5	h6
8	Bh4	g5
9	Nxg5	Nxg5
10	Bxg5	Nb6
11	exd6	Bb7
12	Q3	c5
13	d5	Nb6
14	Bg2	Bx6
15	Bx6	Qd6
16	O-O	O-O
17	Nxb5	exd5
18	Nxb5	Kb8
19	Nb5	Bg7
20	a4	Qh6
21	h4	Bf8
22	Qc1	Bxh4
23	Qa5	Bx7
24	Qc7	Ka8
25	Qa5	Kb8
26	Qc7	Ka8
27	Rf1	Bd6
28	Ob6	Bb6
29	a5	Rd7
30	Rd8	Qx2
31	Kf1	Qx2
32	Kxg2	d4
33	Qxb7	Rb7
34	Rxb8	Rb5
35	a6	Ka7
36	Rb6	Rb2
37	Rd7	Ka8
38	a7	c3
39	Rf8	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Winning Move, page 48

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IBERIA

Thalidomide victim joins hunger strike

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A SECOND thalidomide victim began a hunger strike yesterday to win greater compensation for more than 400 people seriously deformed because their mothers took the drug during pregnancy.

Kim Morton, 31, a Belfast housewife who has malformed arms and legs, wants the Government to hold a public enquiry into the "forgotten disaster" caused by thalidomide. She said she would take only liquids.

Last Thursday Heather Bird, 32, began a fast at her home in Motherwell. Both women have the backing of MPs, as well as more than 400 thalidomide victims and members of the Thalidomide Action Group, which is seeking government action.

As well as a public enquiry, the group wants an end to taxation on the money they receive from the Thalidomide Trust and assurances that current and future use of thalidomide will be strictly controlled. Ms Bird said she was on hunger strike in frustration at what she described

■ Victims of a "forgotten disaster" are taking an increasingly militant stance in the demands for further compensation

as delaying tactics by the Government and Guinness PLC, owners of Distillers, makers of the drug. "I am very angry at the way that we have been treated," she said. "The house I am living in is just not suitable for my needs."

Members of the action group claim their parents were forced to accept a compromise in the fight to win compensation from the Government and Distillers.

Mrs Morton's parents received £19,000, which she regards as inadequate to pay for a lifetime's disability. "At the time my parents accepted the money because, quite frankly, they were exhausted with the battle," she said. "I am the youngest of six and was lucky to have the support of a large family."

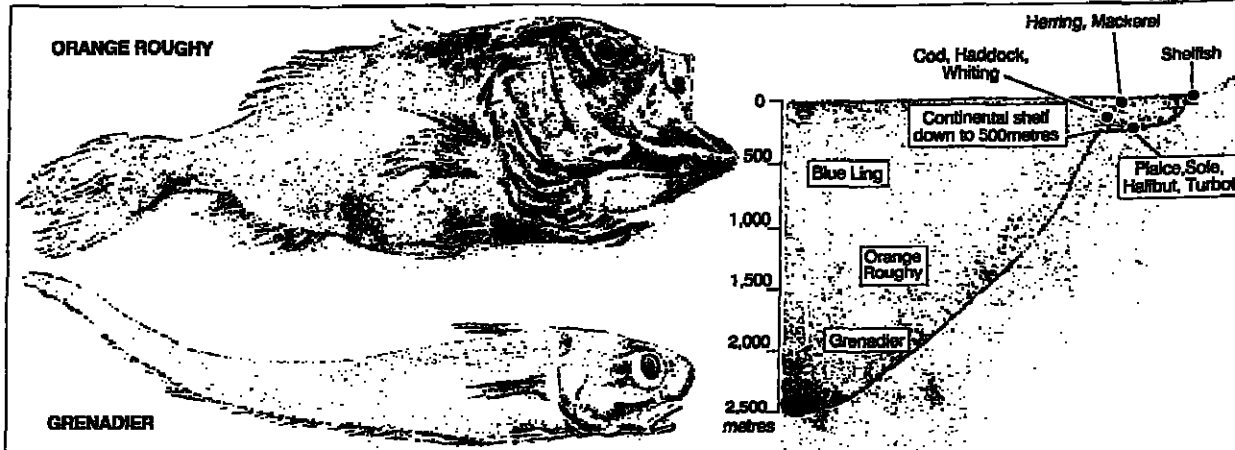
Fred Astbury, of Liverpool, group spokesman for the Thalidomide Action Group, who was born with no legs, malformed fingers and shortened

arms, was awarded £33,000 20 years ago. He said: "The money we won then is totally inadequate to pay for all the help we need now."

Eddie Loyden, Labour MP for Garston, Liverpool, is calling for a Commons debate on the issue and an early day motion has already won the support of more than 60 MPs.

Thalidomide was first marketed in West Germany in October 1957 as Contergan. In 1968, the parents of 62 children agreed to settle with Distillers for an average of £16,200. The company, later taken over by Guinness, set up a charitable trust fund which now stands at £65 million.

Neil Buckland, director of the Thalidomide Trust, said: "Obviously one has to be sympathetic with the victims. The fund has around £65 million in it at present but that only amounts to £140,000 each, not enough to pay for a lifetime's disability."



Fish experts pin hopes on ling and chips

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

FISH with strange names that lurk in the gloomy depths of the North Atlantic may offer the last hope for a viable European fishing industry in the next century, say marine scientists.

Orange roughy, roundnose grenadier, blue ling and black scabbard are among the species most likely to appear on fishermen's slabs over the next decade as fishing fleets venture into unfamiliar waters in pursuit of new prey.

Scientists from 11 countries begin a four-day conference in Hull today to exchange information on the state of such deep-sea stocks and to discuss how to avoid the rival exploitation that has stripped the North Sea of much of its marine life. Such familiar species as cod, haddock and whiting, which are caught in the shallow inshore waters above the continental shelf round Britain, have

been fished so heavily that spawning stocks may never fully recover.

John Tumilty, technical director of the Sea Fish Industry Authority and a conference organiser, said: "We think there are deep-water fish in commercial quantities out beyond the shelf to the west of the British Isles, but we need to know much more about their biology if we are to devise a sensible management policy. Fishing in such waters also has implications for the power and design of vessels, gear such as nets and winches, and echo sounders and other equipment used to locate fish shoals."

Most of the North Sea is no deeper than 100 metres, whereas the fish living on the slopes, ridges and troughs beyond the continental shelf are found between 500 and 2,000 metres. Alasdair McIntyre, Emeritus Professor of Fisheries and

Oceanography at Aberdeen University, who is co-chairing the conference, fears that Britain is being left behind. "French, Spanish and some German boats are already exploiting these deep-water stocks and will thus have the claim to the lion's share of any catch quotas imposed in future," he said.

Only about 30 of the 11,000 vessels in the British fleet have enough freezer storage space and engine power to stay out at sea for up to a month and to tow and haul nets at depth.

Deep-water species, despite their inaccessibility, are vulnerable to overfishing. They grow slowly, partly because their food supplies are scarcer, and take decades to reach maturity. Stocks that seem abundant can be wiped out in a few seasons, as has happened to orange roughy in some New Zealand waters.

Coast count confirms seabird toll

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

EARLY results from an annual survey of the British coastline at the weekend confirm ornithologists' fears that seabird deaths for the whole of this year could exceed 50,000.

Over recent weeks about 20,000 dead birds, including those found in the weekend survey, have been retrieved, mostly on the east coast of Scotland. That compares with about 30,000 recovered in the whole of 1993, formerly the worst year. More are likely to be recovered in coming weeks.

Some 800 volunteers took part in the survey, walking along 1,860 miles of coastline. More than 6,600 dead birds have been reported so far from just over 400 miles of coast.

Derek Niermann, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, which organised the survey, said: "We expect the final count to be somewhat over 11,000 birds, or about four times the 2,823 recovered from beaches in the 1993 survey. The great majority are guillemots, with smaller numbers of shag and razorbill."

Mark Tasker, head of the seabird branch of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, said: "Bad weather is almost certainly the main cause. Stormy seas hindered birds diving for food."

Transfusion bar killed mother

A 27-year-old Jehovah's Witness died when doctors honoured her wishes not to carry out a blood transfusion, St Pancras coroner's court was told.

Suzanne Tessaga, of Bethnal Green, east London, died on January 16 at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead. The mother of three had had a hysterectomy nine days earlier, which led to a haemorrhage and a cardiac arrest. Verdict: misadventure.

Rapist jailed

A 27-year-old who raped his mother was jailed for life at Teesside Crown Court with a recommendation that he serve at least 12 years. He attacked the 59-year-old at her home in Redcar, Cleveland, 42 days after being released from a six-year sentence for an earlier sex assault on her.

Driver in court

William Howorth, 81, of Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Oxfordshire, who allegedly drove 20 miles the wrong way down a dual carriageway, denied a charge of dangerous driving at Abingdon Magistrates' Court. The case was adjourned until April 12.

Father held

Frederick West, 52, of Gloucester, was remanded in custody accused of murdering his daughter Heather between May 28, 1987, and February 27 this year. She went missing aged 16 seven years ago.

Hog returns

Beaky, a 7st Argentinian penguin accused of savaging a pet mastiff and a rottweiler, was back in its pen at Brambles Wildlife Park, Herne Bay, Kent. Vandalism had let it loose with three other animals.

Record sale

A collection of model aircraft made from scrap wood in a garden shed sold for a record £50,000 at Christie's in London.

Church robbed

Thieves stole jewellery worth £15,000 and antique furniture from the 13th century church of St Michael and All Angels in Kingsland, Hertfordshire.

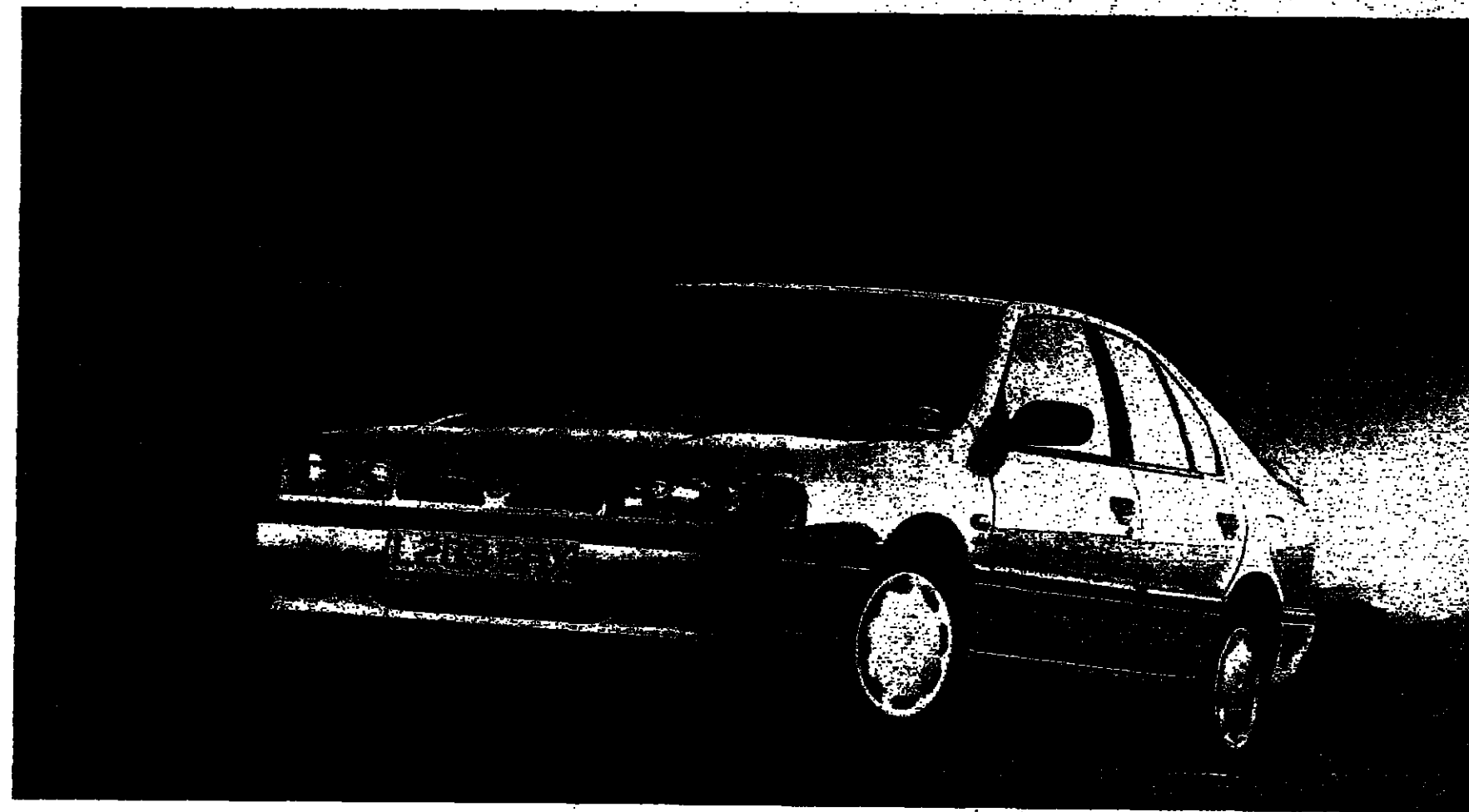
PC attacked

Several arrests were made in West Belfast after a policeman was beaten up he was called to a flat in the Loyalist Shankill Road area.

Ford sold

A 1938 10hp Ford Eifel, in which a British family escaped the Nazis, fetched £5,980 at Sotheby's in London.

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Detail from the Gainsborough family portrait

Sale of Gainsborough clears £1.1m tax bill

By JOHN SHAW

THE only known self-portrait of Gainsborough, his wife and elder daughter has been accepted by the Government in lieu of inheritance tax owed by the Cholmondeleys of Houghton Hall, Norfolk.

The picture, *Portrait of the Artist with his Wife and Child Seated in a Landscape*, is from the estate of the Dowager Marchioness of Cholmondeley, who died in 1989. The sale was negotiated by Christie's and satisfies tax liabilities of £1.1 million on the estate of the sixth Marquess, who died in 1990.

Payment will be made from the public expenditure reserve under the terms of the Gowrie Agreement of 1985. The offer is conditional on the painting being allocated to the National Gallery in London.

The agreement meets a wish expressed by the marchioness that after her death a painting from Houghton

should be transferred to the National Gallery. Her brother Sir Philip Sassoon was chairman of the gallery trustees from 1933-35. He was particularly fond of conversation pieces and held celebrated exhibitions of such pictures at his home in Park Lane.

Peter Brooke, Secretary, said he was delighted that the picture, valued at £1.75 million, had been saved for the nation through the acceptance in lieu scheme.

Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788) was born in Sudbury, Suffolk. He married Margaret Burr, one of his subjects and the daughter of the fourth earl of Beaufort, in 1745 and subsequently moved to Bath where he became the most fashionable society portrait painter of his day. He composed *Portrait of the Artist with his Wife and Child Seated in a Landscape* in Suffolk in 1760.



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Patten launches scheme to create schools for sport

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to create a national network of schools of sporting excellence were announced yesterday by John Patten, the Education Secretary. Under an initiative designed to end the dominance of the neighbourhood comprehensive, Mr Patten said secondaries would be invited to specialise in sport, art and music or business and languages.

The scheme is the next stage in the Government's drive for "choice and diversity" in the state system, encouraging schools to opt out of local authority control and to develop expertise in particular areas. It will be modelled on the technology college initiative, which allows voluntary-aided and grant-maintained schools to bid for government grants of about £100,000 to match equivalent sums raised from business sponsors.

Critics dismissed the scheme as a desperate attempt

to revive the Government's flagging campaign to persuade schools to opt out.

Mr Patten, naming the first 12 technology colleges yesterday, said: "These schools are pilots, not just for the substantial numbers of technology colleges we wish to see coming along. They are also the pilots for other specialised schools which, resources allowing over the next couple of years, I intend to introduce."

The new breed of specialist schools will be required to follow the national curriculum in full. However, ministers believe schools have the scope to concentrate on particular subject areas by lengthening the teaching day.

The first of the specialist sports schools could be running by 1996. Formal details of the scheme are expected to be released once the financial implications have been clarified. Head teachers and gov-

ernors would require approval from the Secretary of State if they wanted to select by aptitude more than one pupil in ten.

Mr Patten yesterday rejected reports that he was locked in a dispute with Iain Sprouat, the Sports Minister, over plans to make schools organise competitive team games such as cricket and football as part of the national curriculum. He said PE was already compulsory for 14- to 16-year-olds who had a choice of team games, athletics, dance, gymnastics or outdoor activities.

The 12 technology colleges will open under new colours in September. Mr Patten said he expected their numbers to swell to 150 by 1997. In addition to a capital grant, each school will receive £100 a pupil each year provided they meet achievement targets.

Ann Taylor, Labour's education spokesman, said: "It is



Mr Patten yesterday, announcing the technology colleges which will lead the way for other specialist schools

time Mr Patten concentrated on the real problems confronting thousands of children and teachers in the classroom every day instead of merely concocting schemes."

□ The 12 technology colleges are:

Chalvedon Grant Maintained School, Basildon, Essex; Chatham GM Grammar School for Girls, Chatham, Kent; Collingwood GM School, Bromley, south-east London; Saffron Walden GM County High School, Saffron Walden, Essex; St George's GM School, Nottingham; Glyn

GM School, Epsom, Surrey; Harraby GM School, Carlisle, Cumbria; Kennal Manor GM School, Bromley, south-east London; Saffron Walden GM County High School, Saffron Walden, Essex; St George's GM Technology School, Sleaford, Lin-

colnshire; St Peter's Collegiate Church of England Voluntary Aided School, Wolverhampton; Saintbridge GM Technology School, Gloucester.

Margot Norman, page 18
Leading article, page 21

Silence on Bosnia shooting attacked

By ROBERT MORGAN AND ALICE THOMSON

ANGRY Labour MPs protested in the Commons yesterday at the failure of the Foreign Office to make a statement on the shooting down of four warplanes in Bosnia by Nato fighters.

Dr Jack Cunningham, the shadow Foreign Secretary, said there had been an "unprecedented, historic action" and although it was authorised by UN resolutions, "nevertheless it represents a serious escalation of events in Bosnia". It was unacceptable that there had been no statement in the Commons, especially when ministers were answering questions in the House of Lords.

Tony Benn, Labour MP for Chesterfield, added his voice to the protests, and sought an emergency debate. Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, indicated that she might be willing to allow a statement or even a debate today if the matter is raised with her privately.

Bombing run, page 17
Leading article, page 21

Tory right calls temporary truce in war on Major

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

REBEL Tory MPs have declared a temporary ceasefire in their campaign to dislodge John Major from Downing Street. After months of sniping at the Prime Minister, dissenting right-wingers have decided to hold their fire until after the triple-decker electoral test in the early summer.

Opinion polls suggest the Tories are heading for disaster in the Eastleigh by-election, the district council elections in May and the European elections in June. Some MPs are privately forecasting that they will be trounced in the contest for the European Parliament. Mr Major's critics are determined to deny him the title of party disunity.

The rebels believe that the Tory high command is gearing up for a fierce counter-offensive if the elections produce another leadership crisis and that they will be the main target. One right-winger said: "We want the buck to stop where it should on June 9 — with the Prime Minister."

Another said that he and his like-minded colleagues had batted down the hatches until after the elections. While Mr Major will be glad of the respite, he knows that the ceasefire is purely tactical and intended to help

his enemies. However, he believes that his more assertive approach in recent weeks — which included a public rebuff to one of the right's leaders, Sir George Gardiner — is steadily whittling away the threat to his position.

Senior ministers believe that Mr Major will be able to weather the June storm irrespective of how bad the election results are. One said yesterday: "All we have got to do is keep our heads down for six weeks. There is nothing our backbench critics can do except scream and shout. By October, the recovery will be evident for all to see and the climate will have changed."

The three-month ceasefire applies mainly to the 50-strong group of Tory MPs who defied the Government over the Maastricht Treaty. Many have been in the forefront of the internal wrangling and criticism of the Prime Minister that has marred the Government's efforts to restore its authority. But the right appears split, with tensions emerging between the Maastricht rebels and the Thatcherite No Turning Back Group, which is dominated by ministers who chose to put their careers before their doubts about the treaty.

Rebellious peers force new retreat

By JONATHAN PEYRON AND SHEILA GUNN

THE Government will today bow to the demands of rebel Tory peers over proposals to shake up police authorities in England and Wales.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has agreed to demands that elected local councillors should have a clear majority on police authorities. He also abandoned the original controversial proposal that five out of each 10-member authority should be directly appointed by the Home Secretary.

The climbdown is the latest in a long line of recent setbacks for Mr Howard's Police and Magistrates' Courts Bill in the Lords. Senior peers predict more revolts over Government legislation this session.

The unusually rebellious mood on the Tory benches could affect the passage of the Criminal Justice Bill, legislation to cut red tape and coal privatisation. In a tough three months, Lord Wakeham, the Lords' Leader, has already persuaded Mr Howard and John Patten, the Education Secretary, to redraft key passages of their Bills.

Lord Wakeham's troubles look like increasing as the various measures upset different peers. All Criminal Justice Bills come in for lengthy disputes in the upper House because of the number of Law Lords, former Home Secretaries and magistrates. But the Deregulation Bill, removing many consumer protection measures once introduced by peers, has been marked down as a potential hornet's nest.

Individual Tory peers have long been recognised as rebels on particular issues. Baroness Faithfull regularly



Wakeham: facing a difficult session

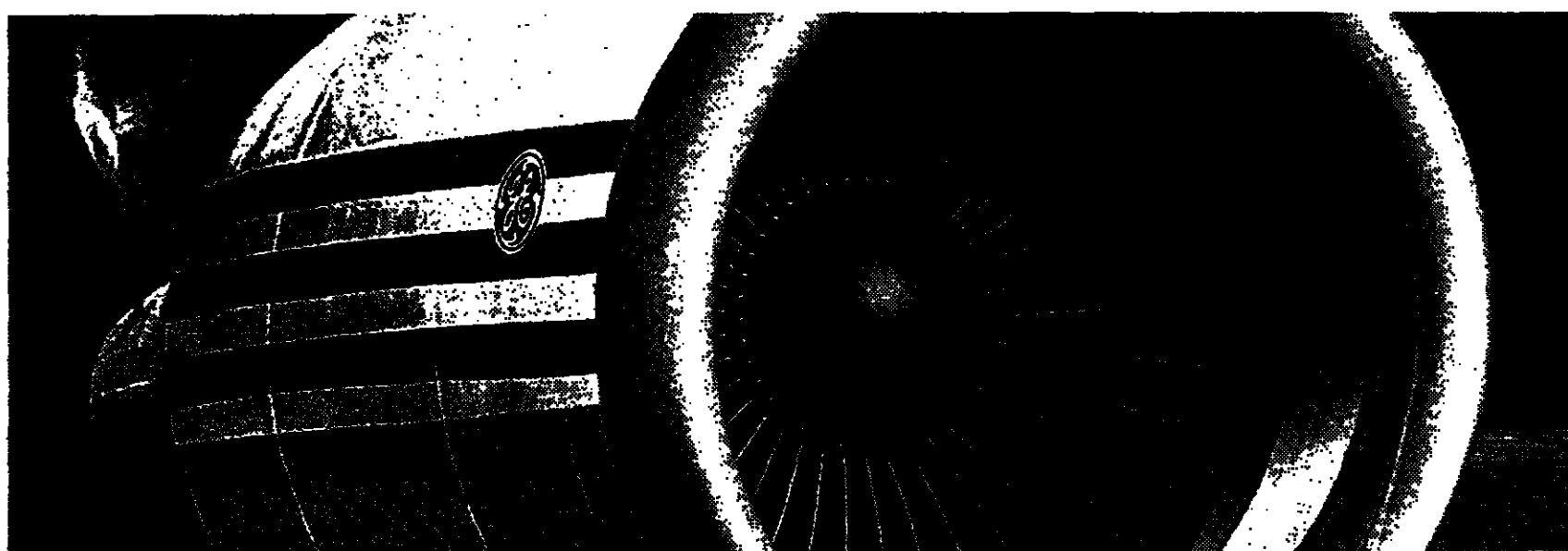
votes against the Government on social policy, such as the Child Support Agency. Baroness Flather, the Asian Tory peer, restricts her opposition to immigration legislation.

But there are now emerging a few senior backbenchers, such as Lord Peyton of Yeovil, who led the BR revolt, ready to vote down the Government on a range of issues without warning. One senior peer blamed the influx of former ministers for introducing "unlordlike" behaviour.

Lord Wakeham and his Chief Whip, Viscount Ullswater, are reluctant to withdraw the Tory Whip for fear of "glorifying" the rebels. But threats of revolt by three loyalist peers in particular, Viscount Whitelaw, Lord Boyd-Carpenter and Lord Renton, have alarmed them. "When Willie rumbles — and Boyd-Carpenter and Renton dig their toes in — you know something's wrong," a whip conceded.

Other unexpected rebels are Lord Beloff and Lord Renshaw on the Education Bill and Lord Bethell, a Tory MEP and adviser to the Police Federation, on the Police Bill.

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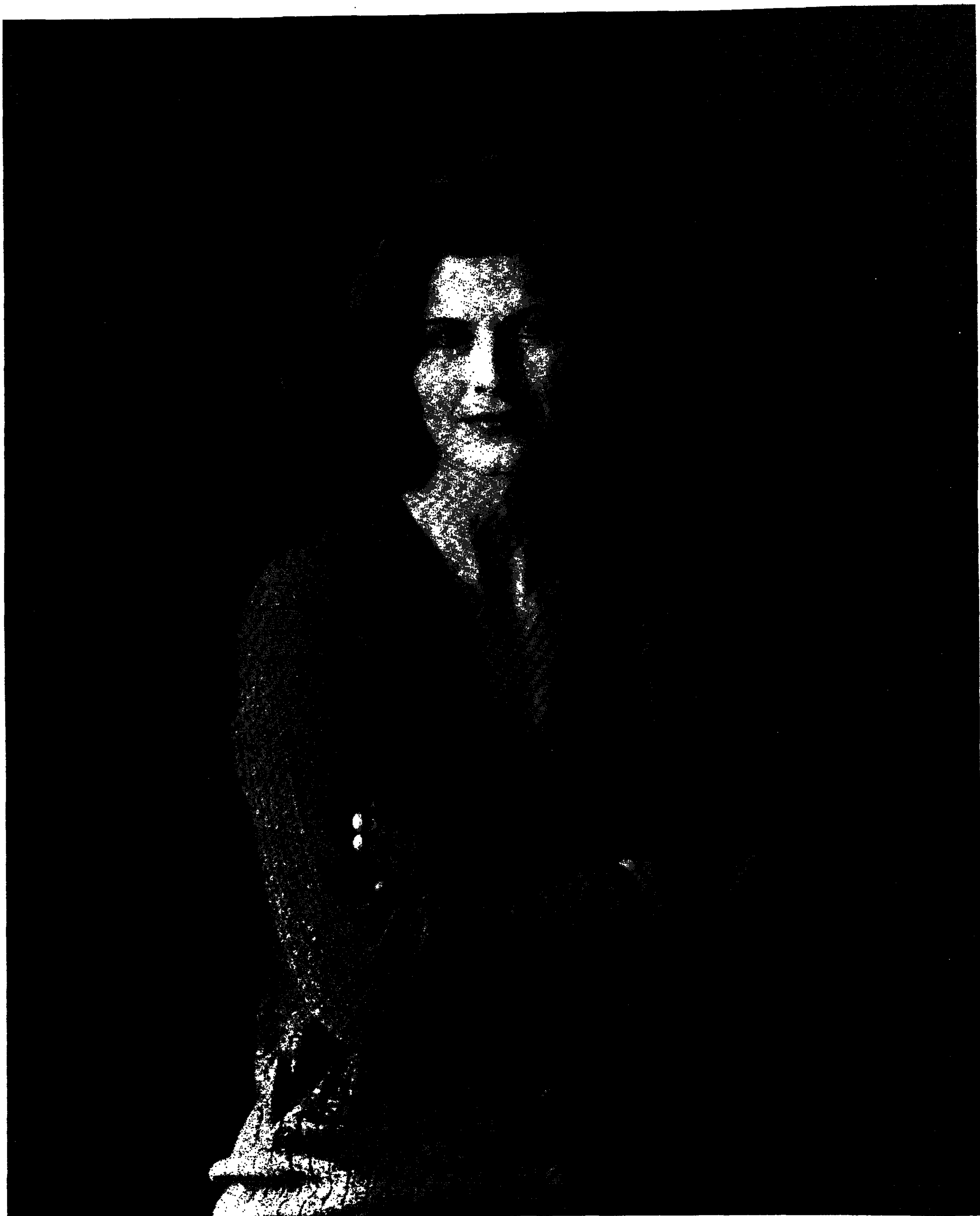
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Blundering by the West risks losing rich Asian prize



FROM JOANNA PITMAN
IN KUALA LUMPUR

AFTER 13 years in power, Malaysia's Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir Mohamed, has acquired a certain notoriety as an abrasive advocate of Asian causes and a hostile critic of what he and his powerful supporters in Singapore and Indonesia consider to be the patronising and arrogant behaviour of the West. Until last week, when his government announced a ban on trade with Britain, there had been a tendency to discount his prescriptions as political self-indulgence.

No longer. As punishment for British press reports suggesting that Malaysian leaders had accepted bribes, the government has placed an open-ended embargo on new public-sector contracts with British firms. Malaysia's private

■ The Asian market accounts for a quarter of global GNP. Western governments and businessmen must tread warily if they wish to retain a share of its success

sector is also being encouraged to disengage from partnerships with British firms. Unless the Malaysian government can be mollified, its fury is likely to cost Britain billions of pounds in lost business.

Dr Mahathir's action may appear unequal to the alleged misconduct of the British media. Indeed, his hubris may prove to be misplaced. Malaysia's total exports are one-fifth those of Britain and its gross domestic product one-twentieth. If Britain were to take the unlikely step of retaliatory measures, Dr Mahathir would

probably discover that his country is the more vulnerable. The trade figures tell their own story: Britain's exports to Malaysia last year were worth £965 million while exports from Malaysia to Britain were worth £1.4 billion. However, he stands on strong ground in assuming that the British Government and British business interests are in no position to make light of what he says.

The rapid and successful growth of Malaysia's economy in the past five years is unquestioned. It has expanded by more than 8 per cent

a year, the stock market has boomed and foreign investment has poured in from regional powers, most notably Japan, boosting export capabilities in manufactured goods and now, more importantly, increasing its pull as a market for consumer goods. Malaysia is no longer content to be patronised as a "tiger cub" economy.

Nor is Dr Mahathir alone in comprehending the economic authority his country stands to exert. Singapore and Indonesia have nurtured their growing economies under long periods of stable (if authoritarian) rule and resent Western inferences that their records on democracy and human rights are unacceptable.

In Indonesia, President Suharto, 73, has been in power since 1966, controlling a regime that tolerates little by way of dissent.

The media, opposition groups and students are controlled. Political liberalisation still looks far off, but any pangs for greater freedom have been staunchly, at least among members of the burgeoning middle classes, with an economic growth rate of 7 per cent a year since 1967.

With the fourth largest population in the world (184 million) Indonesia is becoming an ever-bigger cog in the world economy and Western governments and businessmen should tread with care if they wish to retain a share of its success. Indeed, Western businessmen ignore the region at their peril. In 1993 the Asian market accounted for one-quarter of global gross national product, compared with 4 per cent in 1960, and some economists predict its share will swell to a third by the turn of the century. By then, according to

Kenneth Courtis, senior economist for the Deutsche Bank Group Asia, it will be difficult for firms to be players if they are not a factor in Asian markets.

Trade in arms will be a big attraction. National rivalries, ethnic tensions, disputed oil reserves and the suspicion that America may reduce its security presence, explains the 10 per cent increase in defence spending since the end of the Cold War.

Western firms should be aware that the country best positioned to take advantage of Asia's performance is Japan. Japan represents two-thirds of the Asian economy and has set the pattern for the development of the region. It is working towards an Asia where currencies will be linked to the yen. Western businessmen have much to lose if they fail to hold and increase their patch today.

Britain's aim is to resolve this Malaysian question, not to prolong it, Hurd insists

Labour guilty of humbug on arms deal, minister says

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS
JAMES PRINGLE IN KUALA LUMPUR
AND OUR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

ALASTAIR Goodlad, a Foreign Office Minister of State, insisted yesterday that overseas aid was not linked to arms sales as the dispute over the Pergau dam in Malaysia resurfaced in the Commons.

Mr Goodlad accused Labour of a "rich mixture of humbug and cynicism" as MPs demanded to know whether the link existed after the dispute over the dam that has led to Malaysia imposing a damaging trade boycott on tenders from British firms.

Yesterday the Malaysian government announced that up to 1,000 Malaysian students will not be sent to study in Britain. The Malaysian Trust Council, a government-backed agency that sends Malaysian students to British universities, has invoked the issue of students' security as justification for its decision not to send them to Britain. Nazri Abdul Aziz, chairman of the council, said yesterday: "We are not sending our students for fear of their safety in case of retaliatory action from the

British public." The statement, which illustrates the increasingly bitter tone of the dispute, comes four days after Mahathir Mohamed, the Prime Minister, barred British companies from obtaining any Malaysian government contracts after British newspaper reports alleged that British-Malaysian trade was conducted in a corrupt environment.

Yesterday Britain asked its European Union partners to consider action against Malaysia. European Commission officials, who conduct trade negotiations on behalf of the EU's 12 governments, are investigating whether Malaysia's "Buy British Last" campaign breaks rules laid down by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). According to EU diplomats, British officials made the request at a meeting of the Union's trade policy committee last Friday.

Britain's European options in the trade dispute seem limited. EU trade action is



Tom Clarke, Labour's spokesman, left, who demanded more details of the Malaysian "entanglement" from Alastair Goodlad, right. Nazri Abdul Aziz, centre, a Malaysian official, said yesterday that his country would not be sending students to Britain because it feared for their safety



normally taken under the global GATT rules and Malaysia has not signed the GATT code covering government contracts. Sir Leon Brittan, the EU's trade commissioner, could start legal action against Malaysia under GATT only if the Malaysian government declared an embargo against British goods.

European Union officials and diplomats yesterday said that the EU was unlikely to declare a tit-for-tat trade embargo against Malaysia at Britain's request. GATT officials said that an immediate EU

embargo on government procurement on other trade would breach GATT rules. The history of recent trade disputes also shows that the EU has never retaliated as a bloc in trade disputes affecting a single member state.

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday in Athens that he did not propose to refer the Malaysian government to GATT. "Our aim is to resolve this question, not to prolong it. We would like to see as soon as possible the day when we resume trading relations with Malaysia," he said

that he would be making a statement on the question to the Commons tomorrow.

Yesterday Labour continued the attack at question time after Mr Hurd's statement on Friday in a radio interview that the aid programme and negotiations over commercial contracts had become "entangled" for a time in 1988 in negotiations over the dam. For

the Opposition, Tom Clarke told MPs that, during questions a few weeks ago, Mark Lennox-Boyd, a junior Foreign Office minister, had said the aid programme was not linked to arms.

Citing Mr Hurd's statement last week, he demanded of Mr Goodlad: "Will you therefore tell us if there has been occasions when British aid

has been entangled with the sale of arms?" Mr Goodlad told him: "Our aid programme is not linked to arms sales, however much Labour continue to repeat that it is."

The issue is set to stay at the forefront of the political agenda this week when Mr Hurd appears before the Commons foreign affairs committee to face questioning tomorrow.

Peking warned on Gatt entry

From Jonathan Mirsky
In Hong Kong

SIR Leon Brittan, the European Trade Commissioner, has warned China that it should not use its economic muscle to punish Britain for its policies in Hong Kong.

Sir Leon, speaking at a joint press conference in Peking yesterday, told Wu Yi, the Chinese foreign trade minister, that Peking was risking its entry into the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). "The foundation of the European Union as a whole is based on non-discrimination... any action that discriminated against one member state on political grounds would be a serious matter, not just for that member state, but for the European Union as a whole," said Sir Leon, who expressed his admiration for China's economic development.

Ms Wu repeated her warning that because Britain does not have a friendly and co-operative position over Hong Kong... this cannot but affect economic and trade relations. The press conference ended abruptly.

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Get all the facts - order your copy of *How To Meet People And Make Friends* today. To order, send your name, address and book title (together with payment (cheque or Visa/Access) for £9.95 (full inclusive) to Camell Ltd, Dept. MF1, Alresford, Colchester, Essex CO1 1AP, allowing up to 14 days for delivery. You can return the book at any time for a full refund if not completely satisfied.

Brother of China's last emperor dies of cancer

FROM ANDREW QUINN IN PEKING

ONE of China's last links to its imperial past, Aisin Gioro Pu Jie, brother of the last Qing emperor, died yesterday of prostate cancer at 87.

Pu Jie died at Peking's Union Hospital, where he had been under treatment for almost a year. Born in Peking in 1907, Pu Jie grew up in the twilight years of the Qing Imperial Court, which maintained its stylised grandeur

even as China spun out of its grasp. He was the chief playmate for his brother, China's famous boy emperor Henry Pu Yi, who was deposed as "Son of Heaven" at the age of six by the nationalist revolution of 1911.

The imperial brothers, along with legions of retainers and a special staff of eunuchs and concubines, remained in Peking's ornate

Forbidden City for a further 13 years, almost completely cut off from the outside world. Their life of inflexible ritual amid dynastic ruin was the subject of the award-winning film *The Last Emperor* by Bernardo Bertolucci, the Italian director.

Fortune turned with Japan's invasion of China in the mid-1930s, and Pu Yi was briefly made emperor of the puppet state of Manchukuo, which encompassed Manchuria. Pu Jie was married off to a member of the Japanese aristocracy and named heir apparent.

Both men were captured by the Soviet Red Army after Japan's surrender in 1945. In 1950 they were handed to China's new Communist rulers and underwent almost a decade of political "re-education".

They were released in 1959 and the last emperor lived out his days as a gardener in one of the former imperial parks until his death in 1967. Pu Jie was eventually rehabilitated more fully. (Reuters)



Pu Jie's death severs a last link with Imperial China

Major vies with Hillary's little brother for air time

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN NEW YORK

TWO guests planned to reach out to America via the CNN programme *Larry King Live* last night: the first was John Major while the second was Hugh Rodham, the First Lady's younger brother, who was expected to make the official announcement that he will run for the US Senate next November.

It is a matter of debate which of the two represents the trickier diplomatic situation for the Clinton White House. Mrs Hillary Clinton reportedly attempted to dissuade her rotund and rumbustious younger brother from running for the Florida senate seat currently held by the popular Republican Connie Mack, but to no avail. His candidacy

has presented the Clintons with a dilemma: if they support him in a campaign which is almost certainly doomed then the political embarrassment will be considerable; if they do not, they will be accused of disloyalty.

According to the latest polls, Senator Mack is leading Mr Rodham by 56 per cent to 16 per cent, and Republicans are gleefully anticipating a Democratic election catastrophe. The former football player has already shown an impressive talent for own-goals. During the last two weeks his Cadillac has burst into flames just as he was about to be interviewed by *The Washington Post*, and he told *The New York Times* he was married to a woman of "Cuban distraction".

Major's visit, page 1



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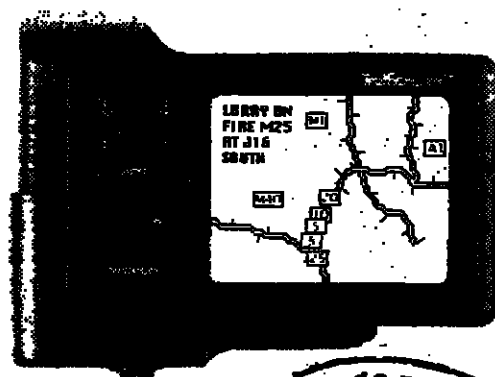
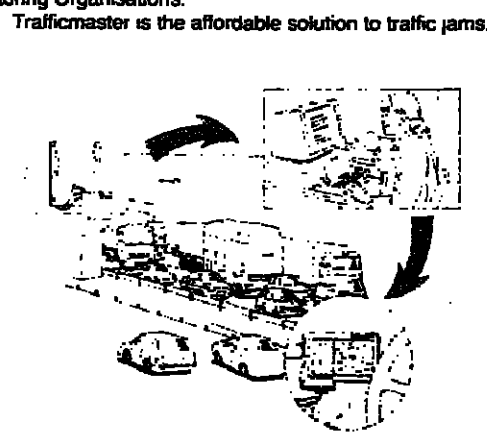
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A royal tribute to the local heroes

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCE OF WALES



THE COMMUNITY Enterprise Awards celebrate the increasing success of our community entrepreneurs. They draw attention to the achievements of energetic and committed people in our local communities and help to show others what can be done.

Whether they focus on challenges like homelessness, unemployment or the environment, these community enterprises represent a great force for good.

I am delighted that we have received a record number of entries for the awards this year — nearly 400, from as far apart as the Isle of Wight and the Outer Hebrides. This year's winners include projects as diverse as community centres, business

centres, a community garden, a housing project and a shelter for the homeless. What they have in common is local men and women working in partnership with businesses, local authorities and members of the voluntary sector with the vision to tackle the most pressing social challenges of our time in new and imaginative ways.

When I meet local people who are working to improve life in their communities, I am always inspired by their enthusiasm and leadership, along with the impact of their projects. They show that it really is possible to create a sense of hope and regeneration — even in the most difficult of circumstances.

Colin Narbrough
tells of the drive
and effort behind
the awards scheme



In the 25th anniversary year of his investiture as Prince of Wales, it is highly apt that the prince has chosen Cardiff, the Welsh capital, to present today the 1993 Community Enterprise Awards.

The choice of venue also underlines the increased efforts of the awards scheme, now in its ninth year, to try to focus more attention on the regions. Last year, the awards ceremony was held outside London for the first time, at Edinburgh Castle.

The awards, sponsored by *The Times* and organised by Business in the Community (BITC), which groups almost 500 of the country's leading businesses, are the only presentations that recognise the inspiration and achievements of local people who undertake community enterprises.

Anxious to see community enterprise become a widespread and effective force in regenerating our inner-city areas and deprived rural communities, the prince has taken a more hands-on approach to the awards scheme, having previously acted as patron. For the 1993 awards he took over the important

role as chairman from Lord Scarman.

In his commitment to community enterprise, the prince sees his role as that of a catalyst, bringing together the money and expertise of business and the professions with the imagination and drive of what he describes as "local heroes".

A key part of the awards programme for the prince is the visits he makes to winning projects on which he takes public and private-sector leaders to give them first-hand exposure to community enterprise. He sees his success in raising enthusiasm among those leaders as playing an important part in establishing the "benign culture" that now thrives.

Community enterprises, which are run as businesses, currently about 500 in all, have an estimated turnover of £90 million, and employ some 7,500 people across the country. When *The Times* initiated the awards in 1985, Charles Douglas-Horne, the then editor, wanted to reward local enterprises which were not over-reliant on government or local-authority funding. Fostering self-help was, and remains, at the very heart of the scheme.

The ten 1993 awards winners, grouped under the categories housing and homelessness, rural issues, improving the local environment, business development and training, and community buildings, once again reflect the wealth of community enterprise available.



Nurse Chrissie Jarvis gives Lachlan, 23 and homeless for six years, a health check at the award-winning Julian House night shelter in Bath

There has been a marked increase in the numbers of entries, to a record 387, but the strength of community that prevails in the remote parts of Britain is once more in evidence. The Derrygonnelly Old Creamery development in County Fermanagh, and the Spamount and District Cross-Community Hall in Castlederg, County Tyrone, bring into focus the very special difficulties likely to prevail in Northern Ireland for a long time, whatever the outcome of current efforts by the Irish and British governments to end the decades of violence in the Province.

But winners, such as Julian House, the night shelter and day-care centre at Bath in Avon, tell of a

malaise affecting much of the country, even the traditionally better-off regions of the South, long considered immune from the deprivation that afflicted inner areas of big cities such as London, Glasgow and Liverpool.

Merseyside is again represented by the North Mersey Business Centre in Knowsley, which aims to create 700 jobs in the next five years. Indeed, Merseyside has been one of the driving forces of community enterprise. The Eldonians scheme, a former awards winner, which succeeded in regenerating some of the worst slums of Liverpool, has continued to innovate. From its original housing project, it is now moving into new territory

such as day-care and home-help schemes, establishing new models likely to be replicated elsewhere.

Julia Cleverdon, chief executive of BITC, sees new trends emerging in community enterprise, among which are businesses providing special services for ethnic minorities. Funeral services for minority religions and ethnic food makers are among the recent examples to emerge.

The prince has been pushing with BITC to widen businesses' interest in community enterprise. Considerable progress has been achieved in persuading companies to make available executives for front-line experience in community activities. Some companies are already making retirees available, with pay, for a set period after their formal service to the company is over. Volunteering by companies promises to be an important source of support to community enterprises in the years ahead.

With the economy recovering from a deep recession and with public spending under severe restraint, the most pressing issue for community entrepreneurs will probably remain money.

The prince is hoping to raise £2 million from industry by April in order to trigger the release of a further £1 million from the government under a pilot scheme for a new fund for investment in inner-city enterprise.

Self-helpers build a better Britain

THE AWARD WINNERS

The following list contains the names of the winners, sponsors and categories of the Community Enterprise Scheme Awards 1993, writes John Young.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS: Sponsored by Charwell Land and the Housing Associations Charitable Trust. Julian House Night Shelter and Day Centre, Manvers Street, Bath, Avon.

IN 1987 volunteers, concerned about the number of people sleeping rough in Bath, converted the crypt of the city's central United Reformed Church into an emergency night shelter.

Funding from the city council and other organisations sustained the project over the next four winters, but the long-term aim was to establish a permanent, year-round centre for the homeless.

A site was found and the new building was opened on March 30, 1993. Part of the £200,000 cost was met by the council and the remainder through fundraising activities.

The building provides beds for 10 men and two women, showers, a laundry, cooking and primary health care facilities and a respite service. The manager and the five staff are supported by more than 250 volunteers. In its first five months, some 30 clients were helped to move on to long-term accommodation.

● Bath Churches Housing Association, 21 Stall Street, Bath BA1 1JN.

Architects: Follen Clegg Design, Bath Brewery, Toll Bridge Road, Bath BA1 7DE.

Southgate to Hallwood Park, Kuncorn, Cheshire.

SOUTHGATE: housing estate, completed in 1977, was an ambitious project, consisting of 1,100 concrete flats and maisonettes. It proved unpopular with potential tenants and within three years had been classified as "difficult to let".

By 1985 one of the blocks had been boarded up and the estate bore many of the hallmarks of social stress: high rates of crime, unemployment, truancy and child abuse. Known as "Lego-land", it was considered to be the worst housing estate in Cheshire.

In 1988, the Department of Environment agreed to make half the site available for new housing

built on traditional lines, with tenants being allowed to choose from a range of interior and exterior features.

More than 300 homes have now been completed, with plans for a further 200. The £14 million cost has been partly funded by the local housing corporation. Now renamed Hallwood Park, it is a pleasant, peaceful community where only one crime — a burglary — has been recorded during the past two years.

● Merseyside Improved Houses, Palaeo Fields, Runcorn, Cheshire. Architects: Wilkinson, Hindle Halsall, Lloyd Partnership, 98 Duke Street, Liverpool L1 5AG.

RURAL ISSUES: Sponsored by *The Times*. Melford After School Kids Club, Long Melford, Suffolk.

LONG Melford, a large village populated mainly by relatively prosperous commuters, is not immune to 20th-century social pressures. With a high proportion of working parents, there was a need for a centre to provide after-school care for children between five and 13.

Mask was established by parents in September 1991, and occupies two rooms in the village's old Victorian school hall. It employs two staff who, with the assistance of volunteers, look after about 50 children. The club also provides work experience for trainees planning to work in child-care.

With an annual turnover of around £20,000, it receives support from the council, charities, businesses and individuals, but is expected to become self-financing.

● Mask, 1 Rivish Lane, Long Melford, Suffolk CO10 9TH.

Professional Advisers: Kids Club Network, 275-281 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1BY.

IMPROVING THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT: Sponsored by TSB Group plc.

Hillsborough Walled Garden, Middlewood Road, Sheffield.

PARENTS from the Middlewood Road in 1990 set up a scheme with the Hillsborough Trust to develop a project for children's nature studies. A working group was formed to reclaim a derelict site in the park, which would encompass a walled garden, a woodland walk, a wildlife garden



Youngsters at the walled garden in Sheffield which provides employment training

with meadows, a pond and a shrubbery garden.

The group set itself a target of 40 weeks to complete the gardens, and raised £65,000. A further £60,000 was offered by companies in labour and materials. Voluntary help was given by residents and professional assistance by the city council. Horticultural Therapy and the Civic Trust.

Now successfully established, the garden has developed strong links with education and arts bodies and provides employment training and a wide range of entertainment for the community.

● Hillsborough Community Development Trust, 1-13 Holme Lane, Sheffield S8 4JP.

Professional Adviser: Tony Mead, The Cottage, Coldwell End, Youlgreave, Derbyshire DE4 1UY.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING: Sponsored by United Biscuits.

Kingsbridge Cledmans Economic Development Group, Ladyloan Place, Drunchapel, Glasgow.

TO coincide with a new housing development, residents set themselves the task of promoting employment and enterprise opportunities in the area.

Having arranged with Glasgow City Council to take over and refurbish some shops at Ladyloan Place, the group decided that a better option would be to demolish them and build a commercial centre instead.

The completed project incorporates shops, offices, workspace and a community wing, with a crèche, training area and boardroom. The £750,000 funding was met by organisations such as the council, Scottish Homes, the Archdiocese of Glasgow and the European Regional Development Fund.

A second phase will provide a child-care facility, further workspaces, small business units, a housing office and retail space.

● Kingsbridge Cledmans EDG, 8

Fasque Place, Drunchapel, Glasgow G15 5HQ.

Professional Adviser: David Murray, Drunchapel Community Organisations Council, Mercat House, 31 Hecla Square, Glasgow G15.

Derrygonnelly Old Creamery Development, Derrygonnelly, Co. Fermanagh.

DERRYGONNELLY is a village with a population of about 600, where the closures of the creamery

and timber factory in the late 1980s sent unemployment soaring to 23 per cent. In 1989, the community development association purchased the redundant creamery buildings and commissioned a feasibility study to consider how they could be developed to provide work and leisure opportunities for the villagers and attract visitors.

The study recommended holiday accommodation, craft units, a community enterprise centre and camping facilities. Reconstruction,

at an estimated cost of £635,000, began in March 1993, and is due for completion by the end of the year. The centre will, it is hoped, boost the local economy through direct job creation, tourism, private sector investment and new businesses.

The project is managed by four volunteers with financial support from the International Fund for Ireland, the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland and the Cadbury Trust.

● Derrygonnelly & District Development Association, Oakdene House, Monagh, Emskillen, Co. Fermanagh, Northern Ireland BT93 7DH.

Professional Adviser: Richard Pierce, The Old Courthouse, Lisbellaw, Co. Fermanagh.

North Mersey Business Centre, Woodward Road, Knowsley Industrial Park.

IN an area of high unemployment and social deprivation the centre was established as a subsidiary of the Tower Hill Development Trust, a partnership between Knowsley council, businesses and members of the community. It provides 32 office units and 33 industrial workshops, of which 80 per cent are currently let, providing jobs for more than 160 people.

Financial assistance for the £1.3 million project was provided by the council, Merseyside Task Force and the City Action Team.

● Tower Hill Development Trust Ltd, North Mersey Industrial Park, Knowsley Industrial Park, North, Merseyside L33 7UZ.

Professional Adviser: Parris Taylor, Hayman, 17 Hope Street, Liverpool L1 9BQ.

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES: Sponsored by The Prince of Wales' Institute of Architecture.

Spamount and District Cross-Community Hall, 9 Mill Avenue, Spamount, Castlederg, Co. Tyrone.

IN 1989 the Spamount Cross-Community Association bought an old recreation hall to serve as a community centre for local people.

The £150,000 needed to renovate the building was raised with the help of the BBC's Children in Need appeal, Strabane district council, Merseyway Community Care and Help the Aged.

The centre was opened in May and provides, among other activities, a summer holiday scheme for up to 150 schoolchildren, a youth club, a pre-school playgroup, a luncheon club for the elderly and adult education classes.

● Gerard McGlynn, Spamount & District Cross-Community Association, 17 Drumnabry Park, Spamount, Castlederg, Co. Tyrone BT81 7PS.

Architects: McCormack Design, Newtown Stewart, Castlederg.

● Scalpay Community Centre, Pier Road, Isle of Scalpay, Harris, Outer Hebrides.

THE Scalpay Community Association launched in 1988 a fundraising campaign for a community facility, attracting £250,000 from the public sector and £150,000 from trusts and charities — enough to provide a new centre with sports equipment, car parking and access for the disabled, and a new sea wall.

● Donald Morrison, Scalpay Community Association, Seafort Villa, Isle of Scalpay, Harris, Outer Hebrides PA84 3YF.

Architects: Stuart Bagshaw & Associates, Unit 2, Rigs Road, Sornoway, Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides.

Vital link in a social lifeline



Pensioners keep fit at the Community Links centre

CHARLES DOUGLAS-HOME AWARD

Volunteers from the Community Links Canning Town Centre, in east London, are due to arrive in Cardiff today after a sponsored walk to celebrate winning the Charles Douglas-Horne award, named after a former Editor of *The Times*.

Community Links, a large and successful east London charity, will be presented with the award today for the rehabilitation of the old Canning Town public hall as its new headquarters.

Founded by local volunteers 17 years ago, the charity employs more than 300 volunteers working on a wide range of community projects with children, teenagers, parents, pensioners and disabled people. In 1991, badly in need of new and larger premises, it persuaded Newham council to allow it to modernise the Edwardian building.

Neil Shaw, chairman of Tate & Lyle, assembled a team of advisers to oversee the work. More than 500 companies made donations in cash or contributed in kind, including furniture and equipment worth more than £500,000.

Richard Ellis, the surveyors, provided their services free, and Sir Robert McAlpine & Sons Ltd, the main contractors, worked for no profits and no overheads. As a result, the restoration, valued at more than £1.5 million, was achieved for a cash outlay of just over £500,000.

The new centre includes

facilities for children and for young people with special needs, a family "drop-in" where parents can meet for social purposes, small rooms for counselling and larger rooms for training and group activities. Revenue is generated by a cafe, shop and rented offices, managed by a seconded from Marks & Spencer.

Community Links' work with children is aimed at those considered to be "at risk", providing activities for all age groups such as adventure holidays, after-school clubs, play schemes and toy libraries. Most of the volunteers are parents or older youths who have themselves benefited from the charity's work.

For adults it provides advice sessions for 7,000 people a year, drawing together those facing similar difficulties. They include Action and Rights, for disabled people; the Tower Blocks Network, for residents of high-rise buildings, which has since spawned a national agency; and a service for Asian women.

JOHN YOUNG

● Details of the 1994 awards scheme will be published soon. Those interested in entering should write to *Business in the Community*, 8 Stratton Street, London W1X 8FD

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PLO strengthens its demand to disarm racist settlers in the occupied territories

Rabin battles to rescue stalled peace process

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO AND RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

THE Middle East peace process was suspended indefinitely but not irrevocably yesterday, in response to Arab revulsion at the Hebron massacre and Israel's limited reaction to it.

Jordanian, Syrian and Lebanese delegates broke off scheduled talks with Israeli officials in Washington without setting any date to resume. In Tunis, embittered leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation said they would not return to the table until sweeping measures were agreed to protect Palestinians from the 120,000 armed Jewish settlers.

In Jerusalem, Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, refused to consider Palestinian demands for further actions against Jewish settlers but urged the Arabs to resume peace negotiations. Speaking to the Knesset at the start of a debate over last Friday's massacre in Hebron, the Israeli leader repeated his condemnation of the atrocity. However, he insisted that Israel would not alter its approach to the peace negotiations.

The Israeli government has ordered a commission of enquiry into the Hebron massacre, and taken steps to crack down on Jewish militants affiliated to the racist Kach movement. Detention orders for five activists have been issued, although only one has been detained. An additional

30 settlers have been ordered disarmed and 15 banned from entering the occupied territories. The moves did not quell renewed violence yesterday when two more Palestinians were shot dead by Israeli security forces in the West Bank, where demonstrations spread to the Jordan Valley town of Jericho, supposedly the seat of the future Palestinian government.

The collapse of the peace talks, which had reached stalemate over key areas, was

a serious diplomatic blow to the United States, which had been persuaded to predict prematurely that negotiations between Israel and the PLO would switch to Washington in a new intensive form after the Hebron incident.

Senior Arab diplomatic sources said that only determined diplomacy by President Clinton could rescue the process begun in Madrid in 1991 before the predicted spiral of tit-for-tat attacks got out of hand. In Jordan, one top Palestinian official claimed

that the five-month ceasefire in the occupied territories between the PLO's dominant Fatah group and the Israeli army was effectively over. "The massacre is of a scale that sabotages the existing ceasefire," said Abbas Zaki, member of Fatah's central committee. "Orders on the ground were given to escalate all forms of struggle against the Israeli occupation," he said.

As crisis talks continued at PLO headquarters in Tunis, the leadership insisted it was demanding the disarmament of settlers, international protection and immediate talks on the dismantling of all settlements as a condition for resuming peace negotiations. "We want guarantees that the settlers will not enter our populated areas and some international presence in the occupied territories," demanded Yasser Abed-Rabbo, head of the PLO's Information Department. "We cannot negotiate under the threat of the settler time bomb."

In an attempt to secure American intervention, the PLO is considering sending a special envoy to Washington to try to secure support from the Clinton Administration in putting pressure on Israel to expand its initial limited measures against the extremist settlers.



Yitzhak Rabin, as seen by al-Akhar, the semi-official Cairo newspaper, on events in Hebron



Baruch Marzel, the leader of the Kach movement, who has gone into hiding

De Klerk condemns Afrikaner illusions

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN CAPE TOWN

DESCRIBING the white right's idea of an Afrikaner homeland as a hopeless illusion, President de Klerk said yesterday that the Afrikaner Volksfront has "no right to speak on behalf of the Afrikaner people".

The President added that his government will "use all the means at its disposal, including the security forces, to deal with any party which might seek to achieve its objects through illegal or undemocratic means".

The President was speaking during the opening of what must surely be the last session of the three-chamber apartheid parliament, called to amend the constitution that the members passed into law in December. The body, with chambers for whites, Coloureds and Indians but no place for the majority black population, has been enjoying more comebacks than Frank Sinatra. But as the election day approaches, on which an entirely new non-racial parliament will come into being, there will be little chance for another return to the limelight.

The changes to the constitution that will be legislated for in this three-day session include new overriding powers for provincial legislatures and the entrenchment of those powers against substantial reduction. Other changes include new financial powers for the provinces, a double ballot paper for electing the national and provincial legislatures separately, a new constitutional principle enjoining the right to self-determination of groups linked by language or culture, and the establishment of a Volksraad, or national council for the Afrikaners as a first step towards the possible establishment of their homeland.

Observers named: Lord Weatherill, former Speaker of the Commons, has been chosen as one of a team of 120 Commonwealth observers who will help to see order and fair play in the South African elections on April 27 (Eve Ann Prentice writes). The team will be led by Michael Manley, the former Jamaican Prime Minister.

Fugitive Kach leader taunts Israeli security forces

FROM CAROLINE HAWLEY IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI authorities were still searching yesterday for Jewish extremists, including Baruch Marzel, leader of the racist Kach organisation to which Baruch Goldstein, who carried out Friday's massacre in Hebron, belonged.

Warrants for the arrests of five Kach activists were issued on Sunday but so far only one, Shmuel Ben Yishai, has been detained. The others have gone into hiding, from where they have been taunting the authorities in press interviews. Noam

Sederman, a Kach spokesman, told Israeli radio he was "not hiding but touring Israel". Mr Marzel, in an interview published yesterday in the daily *Yediot Aharanot* boasted that Israel's "sloppy police won't be able to find me".

Kach was founded by Brooklyn-born Rabbi Meir Kahane who won a seat in Israel's parliament in 1984. The group advocates the expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories. It is centred in the radical Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba where Goldstein, who represented Kach on the local council, lived. Mr Marzel served as Rabbi Kahane's right-hand man.

Kach is financed largely by private donations from the United States. Although it numbers no more than a few hundred activists, mostly based in Kiryat Arba and the Jewish enclaves in the heart of Hebron, many of its activists have been involved in shooting attacks on Arabs.

Ehud Sprinzak, an expert on Israel's radical right, says the organisation is sophisticated both in executing attacks and in covering its tracks. "Their philosophy is a sanctification of violence," he says. "This is not self-defence." Last November a Jerusalem rabbi linked to Kach was arrested at Ben Gurion airport trying to

smuggle gun parts, silencers and bomb-making manuals into the country. The Israeli cabinet also decided on Sunday to restrict the movement of 15 Kach activists and revoke the gun licences of 20. Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, the Housing Minister, said that the group could be outlawed soon.

These moves were the harshest to be taken against Israeli militants since 27 members of a Jewish underground, responsible for killing Arabs in the early 1980s, were arrested in 1984. All had been released by 1989 following a presidential pardon. Settlers have frequently rampaged through

Arab villages, particularly after Palestinian attacks on Jews, but they are rarely prosecuted. A Jewish settler who killed a Palestinian farmer was recently sentenced to just one year in jail.

There is a pattern of official tolerance towards illegal acts against Palestinians by settlers, says Eitan Felner of the Israeli human rights group B'tselem. "On many occasions soldiers have witnessed illegal acts and done nothing to stop them."

The PLO has said it would not resume peace talks with Israel while settlers continued to "hold their guns to Palestinian heads".

Gossip mag hails 20 rich years

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THE queen of American gossip magazines celebrates its 20th birthday this week with a 322-page anniversary issue, two books, a television special and a heartfelt tribute to "Diana, our quintessential story subject".

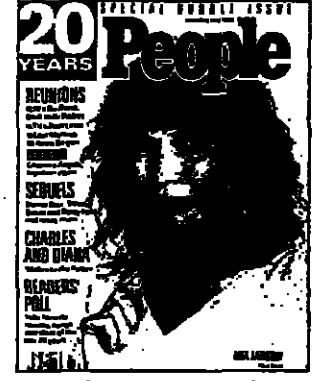
People magazine, which started as a supermarket gossip rag in the year of Watergate, has matured by no fewer than 32 Princess Diana cover stories into a weekly glossy read by one in six Americans.

Relentlessly trivial and obsessed with America's most beloved cult of personality, *People* nevertheless assigns itself a grand role in American life. It has played "both mirror and microscope to popular culture", its editor claims in the anniversary issue. It has become "the

Bible of pop culture in America", gushes a colleague. While celebrities make good news, news also makes good celebrities. Mia Farrow may grace the covers of its first and latest issues, but the intervening 1,036 covers have dwelt as much on ordinary people as on ready-made film stars.

Polly Klaas, the 12-year-old victim of a brutal murder last year, was a posthumous *People* cover story. Tonya Harding was a *People* choice in her hour of crisis, as was Lorena Bobbitt during her trial for severing her husband's penis.

The magazine's founders credit its early success to the gloomy global climate of 1974. Undiluted celebrity gossip proved a welcome antidote to



People: pop culture icon

the Vietnam War and economic depression. Since then America's appetite for human interest has grown unceasingly. Landon Jones, the *People* managing editor, says of the current American scene:

"There's an earthquake, fires, and everyone sits there with their eyes half closed. But someone comes over and says, 'Let me tell you what happened to my sister during the earthquake', then everyone listens."

And everyone buys. With a circulation of 3.5 million and a cover price of \$2.29 (£1.55), *People* is cherished by Time Inc., its New York publisher, as a veritable money-machine. One hundred and fifty-seven of the anniversary issue's 322 pages are given over to advertising.

The magazine's best-selling issue was a 1980 tribute to the assassinated John Lennon. But when subscriptions are taken into account, "Prince Charles and Princess Diana: It's Over" tops the list.

India revels in economic progress

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THREE years after cautiously opening one of the world's largest and most protected economies, India yesterday moved forward its reform programme to compete with China and South-East Asia.

Mamohan Singh, the Finance Minister, told parliament in his budget speech that India was called an economic basket-case three years ago. Now he outlined the victories of reform: foreign currency reserves up from \$1 billion (£671 million) to \$13 billion; exports up 21 per cent; inflation halved from 17 per cent; improved agricultural performance; modest industrial growth; and 4 per cent economic growth for a second year.

However, substantial foreign investment continues to elude India in favour of China, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam. There are still problems with labour reform; poor ports and roads; inadequate and erratic electricity; corrupt telephone; a costly public sector; bureaucratic corruption; and state governments that refuse to embrace reform.

THE TIMES OWN YOUR OWN Dali

SALVADOR DALI, perhaps the most flamboyant artist of the century, will be celebrated at the Hayward Gallery in "Salvador Dali: The Early Years", from March 3 to May 29, 1994, sponsored by Banco Bilbao Vizcaya as part of the Spanish Festival in London. The exhibition follows Dali's career from his teens in Catalonia, through his years in Madrid, to the first exhibition of the Surrealist in Paris.

To mark the exhibition, *The Times* is offering readers a free reproduction print of Dali 1930 painting *The Port of St Peterburg*, Florida which is lending its works for the first time. The print measures 750mm by 492mm and is printed on heavyweight paper.

HOW TO GET YOUR FREE PRINT: Collect six tokens from *The Times* (the first was printed in the *Times Magazine* last Saturday, February 26, and one will be printed every day this week). When you have collected six tokens, attach them to the coupon which appeared in *The Times Magazine* on Saturday, February 26. Full details of where to send your application and how to get your free print framed will also appear in the *Weekend Times* on Saturday, March 5.

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Nice shivers uneasily in shadow of exiled Godfather

FROM CHARLES BREMMER
IN PARIS

IT IS a long way from a jail in Montevideo to the springtime splendour of Nice, with its flowering mimosa and sun twinkling on the great curve of the Promenade des Anglais. But even half a world away is too close for many in the city's baroque governing caste as Nice faces a by-election that pits a new Gaullist mayor against a formidable figure from the far-right National Front.

Nursing his wrath in Montevideo is Jacques Médéric, the Godfather-like mayor who inherited the old Savoy city from his father, Jean, in 1966 and fled to Uruguay in 1990 one step ahead of the law. M. Médéric, sentenced to prison in his absence and wanted on a string of other embezzlement charges, is on the verge of being extradited to France. He is also vowing to get even.

Much sleep is being lost on the Baie des Anges over the prospect of *le grand Jacou* descending in handcuffs at the Côte d'Azur airport and throwing open the cupboard into which the municipal skeletons have finally been snuffed. Nice is just emerging from a three-year agony under Honoré Baillet, M. Médéric's sick and ineffectual successor who departed in November after his stepson was charged with murder and his new young wife with embezzlement. In the absence of Baillet, the city government seemed to be decomposing like the dismembered body parts which recently turned up in lockers at the Nice station.

Disgust with the remains of *Médéricisme* was driving Nice into the



Jacques Médéric, former mayor of the resort of Nice, who was convicted in absentia on corruption charges and is facing extradition from Uruguay

arms of Jacques Peyrat, local leader of the National Front, which enjoys the support of a third of Nice voters. But in November the Gaullist party's heaviest descended from Paris to head off that nightmare. They excommunicated the Nice branch and ensured the appointment as mayor of Jean-Paul Baréty, an obscure and elderly deputy mayor and lawyer. M. Baréty has two great attributes: the scion of an ancient local family, he is a native grandee and, unlike the other contenders, he is not being questioned by the fraud squad.

"I'm filing my *déclaration d'impôts* [tax return] just like you are," Maître

Baréty told a grumbling shopkeeper as he canvassed for votes in the by-election next Sunday. While paying your income tax may be no great feat elsewhere, it is what people want to hear as M. Baréty campaigns in the central constituency long held by the tax-averse M. Médéric.

The seat, which runs from the hills down to the Mediterranean, came within a whisker of falling to M. Peyrat last year. It was held then by Christian Estrosi, one of the troop of "bébé Médéric" whose alleged failure to distinguish between public and private money has kept the local prosecutors busy. M. Estrosi was evicted from the seat for breaking

campaign spending rules, hence the unwanted by-election.

Wandering from shop to shop up the faded Boulevard de Gorbella, looking more elderly lawyer than machine politician, M. Baréty reaps a polite "Bonjour, M. le maire" from almost everyone, along with a litany of complaints about crime and taxes. The Nîçois, he insists, have got the message. "We have truly turned the page, the past is the past."

With all the resentment over the council's never-ending *magouilles* — that useful slang term that loosely translates as being on the fiddle — one might

imagine that the challenger would make the most of the lurid aftermath of the 52-year Médéric dynasty. But this is Nice, whose notions of manhood and morality are closer to Naples than Paris. Whatever the late Graham Greene, a local resident who campaigned against Médéric, thought about the regime, *le grand Jacques* was a real patron.

Yes, the corruption is deplorable, says M. Peyrat, a former paratrooper officer and respected lawyer with a baritone voice and a commanding manner. But as he told a gathering of 50 in a school playground: "Jacques Médéric was a friend for whom I had a great affection."

What is more, M. Médéric signalled admiration for the National Front before his arrest in November.

So what will be the impact of M. Médéric's much-dreaded return? "It will be a very bad thing for the image of Nice. There will be big trials and once again Nice will be dragged through the mud. Médéric's time was a very beautiful page in the history of our city, but now the page is turned," M. Peyrat says.

That fondness for *Médéricisme* pleases the voters who also like to hear M. Peyrat's nostalgia for *l'Algérie Française* and his tirades on immigration and crime. Common crime has surged since the Médéric flight, with rashies of Riviera bank robberies, bomb attacks and underworld vendettas.

M. Peyrat, however, concedes that he has little chance next week because the establishment has ganged up to block the ignominy of Nice falling to the National Front. In the run-off vote on March 13, M. Baréty will be backed by all other parties. But that is not the end of the story, because M. Peyrat, a popular man around Nice, has a chance of marshalling support in the city council in next year's city elections and could still emerge as mayor.

His image as a Mr Clean could be helped by M. Médéric himself if France is offered the spectacle of a show trial that exposes more municipal shenanigans. An advance instalment is expected soon in the form of a 475-page manuscript M. Médéric has scribbled in detention. It is called *Un lynchage Exemplaire* (A Model Lynching) and the former mayor says: "I give no quarter."

Embattled Yeltsin sacks intelligence service chief

■ The Russian President sent confused signals to America by dismissing his spy chief and expelling a US envoy. He is finding the old KGB apparatus difficult to master

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin yesterday sent contradictory signals to Washington over the Aldrich Ames espionage case: he responded to the expulsion of a Russian aide from Washington by expelling an American diplomat while simultaneously dismissing Nikolai Golushko, the head of his intelligence service.

The American was later named by the Interfax news agency as James Morris, described as a counsellor in the diplomatic listing. The agency quoted Russian intelligence sources as saying that the man worked for the CIA.

The expulsions provide the first tit-for-tat case since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Moscow's decision to respond in kind to Washington's move indicates that it is unwilling to accept the censure heaped on it by the White House and that it intends to emphasise that spying between the two countries is mutual. Mr Golushko's dismissal may

also be connected with the hurried implementation of an amnesty of some of the President's political foes. The former KGB Lefortovo prison — where Aleksandr Rutskoi, the former Vice-President, and Ruslan Khasbulatov, ex-parliamentary Speaker, were held — was under Mr Golushko's control until last week when it was handed over to the remit of Aleksei Kazantsev, the Prosecutor-General, who ordered their release.

Mr Golushko, appointed last September after the dismissal of Viktor Baranikov, the Security Minister, came from a stalwart KGB background in his native Ukraine. Valued by Mr Yeltsin because of his distance from political infighting, he was appointed head of the new federal counter-intelligence agency after Mr Yeltsin dissolved the Security Ministry.

But he had differences with his protégé over the effects of the ministry's dissolution, with Mr Golushko defending his vast staff and warning of instability if scores of officers left the service. The decision to fire Mr Golushko now shows that, despite his two-fold attempts to redraft the old KGB, Mr Yeltsin seems unable to bend the monolith to his will.

Mr Kazantsev, who resigned on Saturday after refusing to support Mr Yeltsin's call to declare the freeing of the prisoners illegal, yesterday attacked the Russian leader, criticising "people who wipe their feet on the law". But other legal experts said that Mr Kazantsev was acting too hastily while there were doubts about the validity of the amnesty.



Golushko: spoke up for ministry's huge staff

Public-sector strikes signal start of critical week for German industrial relations



Thomas Hack, left, and Hermann Schollenberger taking strike action in Hamburg's Elbe river tunnel yesterday

Workers bring Ruhr to a halt

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMAN cities were brought to a standstill yesterday as public-service workers refused to drive buses and trains, empty rubbish bins and connect telephones.

The warning strikes, which affected the Ruhr particularly badly, signalled the start of a critical week in labour relations. Unless unions and employers can reach agreement on wages and hours within the next ten days, nationwide strikes may upset the German government's confident prediction of economic recovery by the end of the year.

That would influence the general election campaign, which is concentrating increasingly on the problems of the four million unemployed.

Today metal workers in Lower Saxony will be balloted on a prolonged strike from March 7. The metal workers' union, I.G. Metall, estimates that when the balloting ends on Thursday, about 75 per cent of the workers in rolling mills, car factories and engineering firms — will have opted for an all-out strike.

Hans Peter Stihl, chairman of the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce, said

yesterday that employers would not hesitate to lock out workers if the strikes started to spread.

Yesterday's strikes were organised by the public-service union, which does not appear to be far from agreement with the government. Monika Wolf-Mathies, the union leader, says she is willing to consider a shorter working week and appropriate pay cuts providing jobs are guaranteed.



Wolf-Mathies: willing to consider pay cuts

Greens seek ties with Socialists

BY ROGER BOYES

GERMANY'S Greens, living up to their reputation for utopian policies and chaotic power play, have thrown away Bonn's electoral calculations, alarmed European neighbours and boosted the morale of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor.

The party ended its three day pre-election conference seeking a coalition with the Social Democrats, a so-called Red-Green alliance. There is already a Red-Green government in Lower Saxony and the Greens want to unsettle Herr Kohl with a Red-Green government on a national scale. The arithmetic suggests that this is the most feasible way of

ousting the Christian Democrats. According to opinion polls published yesterday, 39 per cent of Germans would vote for the Social Democrats, 34 per cent for the Christian Democrats or the Christian Social Union in Bavaria, 9.5 per cent for the Greens, and 8.5 per cent for the Free Democrats.

The Greens have, however, adopted policy commitments to leave Nato, dissolve the German army, abolish national service, scrap all nuclear projects in the next two years and raise petrol tax. "Absurdism" is how *Die Welt* described the Greens' view of the future.

French attack their 'smug, lazy skiers'

Paris: Lazy, smug, greedy, show-offs... the withering adjectives lobbed by the French media yesterday were aimed not at the country's usual foreign bogymen but at the hapless Winter Olympic team after they won only five medals — four bronze and one silver (Charles Bremner writes).

The skiers and skaters were treated as a national disgrace because France fancies itself as an Alpine nation and won nine medals in the Albertville games two years ago. *France Soir*, ignoring the imminent ban on English words, dismissed the French effort as "Le grand flop".

David Miller, page 46

Moldavia opts for the old apparatchiks

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN TIRASPOL, MOLDAVIA

UNOFFICIAL results from Sunday's parliamentary elections in Moldavia suggest that the ruling Agrarian Democratic Party has imposed a heavy defeat on its nationalist rivals. That is as expected: the Agrarians represent the old Soviet establishment, and especially the collective farm managers, and in mainly rural Moldavia these men have been the politics of the countryside firmly in their grip.

A visit to a collective farm at Hirboval, two days before the elections, showed a scene that might have been from a decade ago. Under the jovial but watchful eye of the manager, a group of elderly apple sorters lined up to

answer questions. Holding their spades at a sort of "at ease" position, they said dutifully that they would be voting for the Agrarians "because they are practical men who know how to run the country and get the harvest in".

One reason for the ascendancy of the former Communists is that the nationalist forces, the Popular Front and its splinter parties, aligned themselves for a long time to a programme of union with neighbouring Romania, which ruled Moldavia from 1920 to 1940 and with which Moldavians share a common language and culture. That has proved unpopular and a referendum called by

the government on Sunday is expected to reject union. In the words of Petru Lucinschi, the chairman of the parliament who is tipped to be the next President, "Moldavia is an independent state and was so already six centuries ago. Moreover, we are situated here on the borders of Slavdom. Thirty-five per cent of our population are non-Moldavians, mostly Slavs, and their wishes have to be taken into account."

The Popular Front and other opposition parties have accused the Agrarians of submitting to Russian hegemony. They point out that Mr Lucinschi, for example, was actually a member of the last Soviet politburo. The



Nationalists oppose the government programme of taking Moldavia into full membership of the Russian-dominated Commonwealth of Independent States. That,

however, did not worry most voters. In the words of Nadezhda Dodon, a teacher in the town of Varaita, "my mother lived under Romanian rule, and told me it wasn't good. If we have to go with anyone, it is better to go with Russia because they give us oil and gas. Anyway, what is the point of one ruined economy uniting with another one? All Romania and Moldavia will produce together is a disaster."

The strong opposition of Moldavia's ethnic minorities has also been a factor in defeating the Romanian vision. The Socialist Party, representing the minorities, appears to have come second in the elections and it is expected to support the Agrarians.

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Air action over central Bosnia draws Western alliance into combat for the first time

Challenge to Nato beaten off in 19 minutes

■ If yesterday's violation of the no-fly zone was a test of the West's resolve to back UN edicts with force, the response has been unequivocal

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

IN NINETEEN minutes the small Bosnian Serb air force learnt what it was like to confront Nato early yesterday morning when four of its military aircraft were destroyed in mid-air by American F16s firing heat-seeking and radar-guided missiles.

The Serb single-seater jets, which Nato said were Jastreb J1s, a version of the Galeb light attack aircraft developed for the Yugoslav air force, were caught in the act of bombing an ammunition factory in the Muslim-held section of Novi Travnik, near Vitez, in central Bosnia.

The bombing raid was the first time the Serbs had used fixed-wing aircraft in an attacking role since Nato began Operation Deny Flight in April last year, patrolling the skies over Bosnia to prevent assaults from the air by any of the three warring factions, under United Nations Security Council resolution 816.

The six Jastrebs, armed with bombs, cluster bombs and 127mm guns, had been spotted in flight formation at 5.31am GMT by an Awacs reconnaissance plane patrolling at 30,000ft. The surprise appearance of Serb attack aircraft in deliberate violation of the no-fly zone set off alarm bells at Nato's Allied Forces Southern Europe in Naples, headquarters and command post for the 180 bombers and support aircraft lined up for action over Bosnia.

Two US F16 Fighting Falcons, armed with Amraam and Sidewinder air-to-air missiles, were diverted from the Moscar area where they were on routine patrol. The pilot of the F16 reported visual contact with two aircraft and identified them as Jastrebs. He saw four more Jastrebs flying further ahead.

At 5.35am the pilot of the Awacs sent two warnings to the Serb jets to land, leave Bosnian air space or be engaged. The warnings were delivered in English, the common language for military and civilian aviation. They would have used the international distress frequency, which all pilots are supposed to monitor, especially in a war zone. If the Serbs were using a different frequency, the Awacs crew could still reach them.

The Jastrebs had taken off from Banja Luka, one of the main Bosnian Serb military airfields and were five nautical miles southeast of the city when they received the warnings. They ignored the ultimatum. At 5.42am the two F16s gave two more warnings, also in English, to the pilots of the Jastrebs, in accordance with Nato procedures for enforcing the UN no-fly zone.



The Bratstvo munitions factory in Novi Travnik, central Bosnia, which was devastated by missiles from six planes in a Bosnian Serb air strike early yesterday morning

The American pilots were following rules of engagement that were described yesterday by Nato officials as "incredibly finely crafted".

The additional warnings were again ignored by the Serb pilots. One minute later, at 5.43am, the F16 pilots received permission to engage. Authority for launching a missile attack on the Serb aircraft was given by Admiral Jeremy Borda, commander-in-chief of Nato's Allied Forces Southern Europe.

At the same time the F16 flight leader saw the Jastrebs make a bombing run. The bombs appeared to be aimed at the ammunition factory at Novi Travnik, but Admiral Borda said a hospital and a storage depot were hit.

At 5.45am, the lead F16 fighter fired a radar-guided Amraam missile and destroyed one of the Jastrebs. At 5.47am the same F16 fired a Sidewinder missile and destroyed a second Jastreb and followed up with another Sidewinder attack a minute later, hitting a third Serb aircraft.

At this point the Awacs plane which had been monitoring the attacks called up two more F16s. At 5.50am the lead F16 from the second Nato flight fired a Sidewinder missile and destroyed a fourth Jastreb. Nine minutes later the two surviving Jastrebs escaped and left Bosnian air space at first via Croatian air space and then back to Banja Luka. A Nato official said a fifth missile, also a Sidewinder, was fired but was too close and dropped to the ground.

None of the Serb aircraft challenged by the American

F16s returned fire. It was not known whether any of the Serb pilots were able to eject safely.

Yesterday's incident over Bosnia was Nato's first military intervention in the 23-month civil war. It was also Nato's first combat action since it was founded. All the F16s came from the Italian air base at Aviano.

Asked if he thought the Serbs were deliberately trying to test Nato after the alliance's successful ultimatum last month to withdraw or hand over all heavy weapons around Sarajevo, Admiral Borda said: "If it was a test, I think we passed the quiz. We reacted exactly as we told them we would."

Planes downed, page 1
Leading article, page 21

TENSION spread across Bosnia hours after the Nato attack on Serb planes yesterday, with ceasefires showing signs of fraying on all sides. Serbs shelled the airfield at Tuzla in northwest Bosnia and the 18-day-old truce in Sarajevo showed signs of cracking.

Early yesterday a Serb tank shell whistled over UN troops on the front line and exploded near a Bosnian military facility in the city centre. No one was injured, but the UN was unable to say where the shell came from.

Shells rain down on key airfield

Several artillery rounds were reported to have hit the Tuzla airport, including one on the airstrip itself. There were no injuries. The shelling demonstrated growing tension in Serb-Muslim confrontation zones.

The truce between Muslim-led government troops and Croat separatist forces in Bosnia held into its fourth day yesterday, but there were numerous minor violations, United Nations military sources said. In several parts of north-eastern Bosnia fierce clashes continued.

In Sarajevo, UN officials admitted that six or seven Bosnian Serb tanks had left the 20-kilometre exclusion zone round the city early on Sunday in violation of the ceasefire agreement and the Nato ultimatum which expired a week earlier. The UN meanwhile suspended aid flights to Sarajevo and halted convoys through Serb-held parts of Bosnia.

There was also shelling of key towns the Serbs hope to capture to sever road links between Tuzla and the rest of Bosnian government-held territory. Nearby, in the besieged Muslim enclave round the towns of Maglaj and Tesanj, heavy fighting continued. Fierce artillery bombardments were accompanied by Serb infantry advances.

Underlying all the anxiety over Macedonia is the ever-present fear would become targets for predators. Both have been settled by a wide range of nationalities and until the 1920s the Greek population was sparse. It was only after the huge population exchange with Turkey, with Greece's defeat in the 1919 war in Asia Minor, that northern Greece became fully Hellenised in modern times.

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Fish quota delays new EU states

Brussels: Carlos Westendorp, Spain's European Affairs Minister, said yesterday there could be no agreement on terms for admitting new members to the European Union unless Norway gave in to EU fishing demands.

He said problems with changes in the Union's voting procedures would have to be solved before the EU could settle deals with Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden, which were due to finalise entry terms last night.

Spain has been demanding the right to catch up to 18,000 tonnes of fish in Norwegian waters from which it was expelled in 1981. Jan Henry Olesen, the Norwegian Fisheries Minister, yesterday ruled out any extra fish quotas for EU members. (Reuter)

Last acquittal

Karachi: A court has cleared Asif Ali Zardari, the husband of Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistani Prime Minister, of fraud charges in the last of 13 cases filed when his wife was ousted from office in 1990. (Reuter)

Minister goes

Canberra: Paul Keating, the Australian Prime Minister, lost his third Cabinet member in three months when Ros Kelly, the Sports Minister, resigned over a \$430 million (\$14.4 million) funding row. (Reuter)

Jet hijacked

Alicante: Three gunmen hijacked an Algerian airliner carrying nearly 130 people and forced it to land in Spain where they freed 12 passengers. The hijackers were believed to be seeking political asylum. (Reuter)

Bobbitt freed

Manassas, Virginia: Lorenza Bobbitt, who severed her husband's penis, has been freed from an outpatient hospital where she was sent for observation. (Reuter)

Serb ground forces retaliate with bombardment of Muslim stronghold in Tuzla

Karadzic flies to Moscow for talks with Russian diplomats

Shells rain down on key airfield

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

RUSSIA gave lukewarm support to Nato over the shooting down of four Serb planes in Bosnia, saying the decision was right, but that the identity of the aircraft was unknown.

In seeking clarification, Moscow seemed to be giving some credence to Bosnian Serb denials that their aircraft had been downed. Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, travelled to Moscow last night, after trying to distance himself from the no-fly zone violation.

"We are checking Nato information. We simply do not know the truth yet," he said before leaving Belgrade.

"We will soon know what happened, whether it was a Croatian or Serbian flight or some training or some combat flight. We will soon get out the full truth." While in Russia, Mr Karadzic will meet Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian Foreign Minister, and Vitali Churkin, President Yeltsin's

special envoy to the former Yugoslavia. Hours after the aircraft were shot down, Bosnian Serb forces began a heavy bombardment of the Muslim stronghold of Tuzla, sparking fears that Bosnian Serb forces will retaliate with

increased action on the ground. The United Nations wants Tuzla airport to be opened to aid flights from Monday. The Serbs say they fear the opening of the airport will make it easier for Muslim-led government forces to smuggle arms into the area.

The Russian Foreign Ministry seemed to have one eye on hardline nationalists when it said: "Whatever side has conducted a military flight over Bosnia, in violation of the corresponding resolutions of the UN Security Council regarding the no-fly zone, has to bear full responsibility for what has happened."

Russian nationalists have said that any attack on Serb forces should be considered an attack on Russia.

"It is stated that these planes could belong to the Bosnian Serbs, though their military command rejects such a possibility," the Foreign Ministry added, "and the

circumstances surrounding the incident are still to be clarified."

President Tudjman of Croatia indicated his country's hostility to Russia's role in Bosnia-Herzegovina when he spoke of the Nato action yesterday during a visit to Tirana, Albania. After meeting President Berisha, Dr Tudjman said Croatia supported a tougher Western line against the Serbs.

In the besieged Bosnian city of Mostar, Yasushi Akashi, the UN special envoy, said he hoped the shooting down of the jets would not jeopardise the fragile peace process.

"I hope this was an isolated incident in which Nato acted in accordance with its established procedures," Mr Akashi reportedly did not learn of the incident until he landed in Mostar on his way to Mostar at 9am, more than two hours after the planes were hit.

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Mr Hurd's remarks at a press conference came after talks with Karolos Papoulias, the Foreign Minister, in which he told him that all Greece's European Union partners were as adamant as Britain in opposing the unilateral Greek move. "Greece, I am sure, wishes to remain within the law, exercise some influence in the European Union and achieve stability in the Balkans. These are three good reasons for a quick resolution," Mr Hurd said.

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Orthodox partners linked in affection and mistrust

FROM MICHAEL BINYON
IN ATHENS

ALONE among the members of the European Union, Greece has insisted on maintaining a dialogue with Serbia, on opposing air strikes against Bosnian Serb positions and on supporting political and territorial concessions to Serbs.

Religion is acknowledged here as being the basis of Greece's strong feeling of solidarity for Orthodox Serbia, and that feeling has flourished particularly as religion plays a greater role in public life throughout the Balkans after the collapse of communism.

History also has brought Greece and Serbia together. The two nations were co-belligerents in both the first Balkan war in 1912, when they fought alongside Bulgaria against the Turks, and again the next year in the second Balkan war when they turned jointly against the Bulgarians. But what binds them together particularly is a common fear of

Turkey and of Muslim influence. "The Greeks see every question through the prism of their relations with Turkey," one observer here explained.

Nevertheless, Athens is equally worried about any expansion of Serbian influence because it was Serbia that historically pushed hardest for control of Salonika and access to the Aegean. Greece would welcome an independent Macedo-

nia as a buffer between its northern provinces and Serbia, provided the Skopje government changed the country's name.

The Greek fears over the instability of its northern border go back many years, beginning with the competition for influence with Bulgaria before the break-up of the Ottoman empire. Greece has always been concerned that its two northern provinces, Macedonia and Thrace,

would become targets for predators. Both have been settled by a wide range of nationalities and until the 1920s the Greek population was sparse. It was only after the huge population exchange with Turkey,

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Des res, cons area: watch it come down

Why is this fine house in the heart of a conservation area doomed to be demolished?
Marcus Binney investigates

By any commonsense yardstick, a conservation area should be a place where priority is given to conservation. In a town or village this must mean preserving the buildings that give character to the place.

The Government, it seems, has other views. If you do not wish to preserve, you can enhance. Pull down any firesome old building, provide a "better" replacement — one that in the words of the Civic Amenities Act 1967 "enhances the character or appearance of the area". Just such a process is taking place in Eton Avenue, an unusually complete and handsome street of free-standing houses in Belsize Park, north London.

The street was built over some 30 years by the firm of William Willet. Andrew Saint, a London historian at *English Heritage*, says: "Willet houses were built with an elegance which makes them often mistaken for client-commissioned houses."

Yet a government inspector has granted permission for the demolition of a substantial house dating from 1904-5, opposite a fire station recently restored in arts and crafts style. The house was most recently used as a nursing home, and is to be replaced by a new private school. To the inspector, it is an oddball. "Unlike the majority of the brick-faced properties in Eton Avenue, it is finished entirely in white render and lacks their rich architectural detailing."

But Mark Girouard, an architectural historian, differs sharply: "This is a nice house, which should not be pulled down. A very silly inspector just didn't realise the houses in the street are built in different manners."

David Prout, who has made a study of the Willets and describes the inspector's decision as "an absolute disaster", says: "The Willets built the street in two distinct phases. At the western end are top-to-bottom houses, five storeys high and designed by the architect, Harry B. Measures." The second phase began in the late 1890s, says Prout, with side-to-side houses. "These are two storeys with a couple of attic rooms. They show the Willets, and Amos Faulkner, their new architect, responding to the servant crisis of the time. Kitchens were brought up out of the basement and housekeepers given a room on the ground floor with a view down the drive," he says.

One end of the street is typical 1880s Flemish, complete with a wealth of crisp and inventive terra-cotta detail applied to gate piers, bay windows and curlicue gables. At the other end are vernacular houses inspired by architects such as Lutyens and Ernest Newton, with tile-hanging, render, and robust black-and-white half-timbering.

Amidst this architectural pack of



A government inspector has approved demolition of No 15 Eton Avenue, Belsize Park, north London, which is in a conservation area, despite the objections of Camden council and residents

Planning system in a twist

PEOPLE who wish to protest against the demolition of a building they cherish must contend with a planning system that is weighted towards the developer — even in a conservation area, *Rachel Kelly* writes.

There are 7,500 such areas in England, defined as "areas of special architectural or historic interest" where one would presume that demolition is unlikely. It is. But it can happen, as the case of Eton Avenue (above) makes clear. The only exception is if a building is listed, when demolition is exceptionally rare, though not unknown. A developer who wants to demolish a building in a conservation

area must first apply to the council for permission. The planning department will weigh the evidence, taking local representations and the character of the area into account. But if after eight weeks they have still failed to decide, perhaps because of inefficiency or because consultation has not finished, it is deemed to have refused permission.

THE DEVELOPER then has a right of appeal to the Secretary of State for the Environment, John Gummer, via one of his inspectors, taking the matter out of the council's hands. In theory, government inspectors are independent.

Keith Laidler, chairman of the

English Historic Towns Forum, says: "The presumption for planning permission is in favour of the developer. He is entitled to his permission, unless there are good and material reasons why it should not be given. Since 1947, it has been the case that objectors don't have the right of appeal, but developers do. They always have two bites at the cherry."

There is hope that the planning rules in conservation areas are about to change. After a conference last autumn, when conservationists raised their concerns, the Government issued a consultation paper, and legislation could follow on the subject.

cards. No 15 represents the style of Voysey. Of course, the house lacks the trimmings of its red-brick neighbours — a simple puritanism is the essence of the Voysey style. By contrast, Allies and Morrison, the London-based architects of the new school to be built on the site have looked carefully.

By inclination they work in a sparse, elegant modern idiom, but on occasions have subtly and imaginatively converted older buildings. In Belsize Park, they took the view that No 15 could not be adapted to the needs of the school and also lacked the quality of an authentic Voysey house. Graham Morrison, a partner, says: "We feel every generation of architects has skills, and that we can do a better job than exists at present."

Care is being taken over materials — hand-made Suffolk bricks should give the new school a mellow exterior closely resembling the older houses. There will also be a mix of materials — render, wood, slate and copper trim. But instead of pronounced bay windows and bold gables, the different elements will be revealed in a subtle series of facade cut-aways.

It is now for local residents to judge how successful the new school is when it opens next year. What grates most is the sheer middlebrowness of Camden council's officers, coupled with the failure of the inspector to weigh the arguments put to her.

Camden, strangely, has no conservation officer, though it has a conservation area advisory committee, which stated clearly that the loss

of No 15 would be serious. English Heritage agrees, calling it "a house of particular value".

Compared with these clear statements, the submission of Camden's officers beggars belief. In the same paragraph it states: "The proposed building has much to recommend it and would make a positive contribution to the architectural appearance of the conservation area" but "its size and siting would detract from the character and appearance of the conservation area".

The case only went to appeal because Camden failed to make a decision. Yet the officers told the inspector that "had the council had the opportunity to determine the application, its recommendation would have been refusal". Camden's

behaviour has one excuse — the legislation on conservation areas is hopelessly ambivalent.

When Lord Duncan-Sandys introduced the civic amenities bill in 1966 he explained: "It is not enough merely to preserve isolated buildings, we must also protect their setting." He spoke of the need to conserve and enhance the new areas. Alas, the words of the Act are subtly different. It says "conserve or enhance".

THE loophole was spotted a few years ago by the Westminster Property Owners' Association. They argue that the only really protected buildings in a conservation area are the listed ones. All the others, they assert, can be demolished, provided the design of the replacement is in keeping.

Amazingly, the new draft of the environment department circular on historic buildings picks up on this mumbo-jumbo. It states: "The objective of preservation can be achieved either by development which makes a positive contribution to an area's character or appearance, or by development which leaves character and appearance unharmed." In the department's view, the words "preserve", "enhance" and "demolish" can all be made to mean the same thing.

But what of the residents of the beleaguered conservation areas on whose solicitude their appearance ultimately depends? My sympathy lies entirely with Franciose Findlay of the Belsize Residents' Association. She says: "A place is designated a conservation area because of its overall harmony and the more gaps there are, the harder it becomes to defend."

The sport of more reports

Is the Government's latest investigation of fitness in schools yet another useless exercise?

Not wishing to see Iain Sproul, the sports minister, drive himself into an early grave, I think he should forget about trying to revive our national fortunes on the conventional fields of play. Egged on by a nostalgic prime minister, Mr Sproul is merely endangering his blood pressure with his campaign to get team sports made compulsory in schools. I imagine it's up already after all those "Yes, Minister, but..." meetings he's been having with John Patten's officials, all of them armed with 101 sound reasons why it can't be done. No, he should adopt the Martyn Lewis approach on this: if the bad news is that the British have forgotten how to play football, cricket

and rugby, then he should tell us the good news, viz, that he is lobbying to get the popular new sport of forgetting included in the next Olympics, and that he is confident Britain can carry off the gold.

I would share his confidence. I could occupy several columns listing all the things the British have forgotten how to do in the short space of time since they told us that living through the information revolution would be like living through the Renaissance with knobs on. Rebirth of learning? Glorious expansion of knowledge? Nah, what that boils down to is a universal belief that if it's not on the computer, it never existed. Let us restrict ourselves to the narrow territory of Mr Sproul's team games campaign, and I'll show you what I mean.

Item one, playing fields. For a game of football, cricket or rugby one of these is generally reckoned indispensable, but Messrs Major and Sproul appear to have forgotten that their government has for years been telling local education authorities to get rid of playing fields. (Not in so many words, but what else might a school have that could be classified as surplus land carrying maintenance costs, capable of being sold off to fund new school buildings?)

Oh, and what happened to a previous sports minister's letter, back in December 1991, telling schools and local authorities not to get rid of playing fields unless they were certain that other schools and local citizens would never have a use for them? It went out for consultation and seems not to have been seen since.

Forgotten, I guess. Item two, the national curriculum. Try to discover what schools are actually required to do in the way of physical education and you'll get from the Education Department 17 pages of instructions that seem to have been written for Marxians. (They helpfully point out, for example, that it should be physically active, that pupils should "demonstrate knowledge and understanding mainly through physical rather than verbal explanations" and should "understand and cope with a variety of outcomes, including both success and failure".)

There is nothing about how to reconcile Sir Ron Dearing's recommended one hour a week for the subject with the need to shepherd a couple of football teams through the streets to a distant playing field, get the sheep changed, fit in a game of football and complete the whole manoeuvre in time to devote the remaining 95 per cent of school hours, as per recommendation, to the rest of the national curriculum.

As for the stipulations about full-length practice games, competition matches and ensuring that pupils have an opportunity to make up their own games too, are you surprised that so many schools opt for athletics, gymnastics or dance instead, for which they're allowed to leave pupils to work out their own unsupervised training programmes?

I tem three, exercise and children's need for it. Professor Neil Armstrong's Exeter study found that when 250 schoolchildren were fitted with heart rate monitors for a week when they were supposedly getting their due ration of national curriculum exercise, only 6 per cent of the girls and 4 per cent of the boys "passed". That is to say, hardly any of them registered the three 20-minute sessions of strenuous exertion that we adults are forever being told we must take.

Ah but, say assorted experts, maybe children don't need what adults need. So? So we need more research to find out what they do need. But for about 100 years from the middle of the last century educators and medical writers wrote about what exercise children needed, didn't they, and wasn't it roughly what Mr Sproul is saying now? Oh really, say the experts, we wouldn't know about old research like that, it's not on our computers. You know, I really think that gold medal in forgetting could be ours for the asking.



MARGOT NORMAN

The meddling Kennedys

America's most publicity-hungry family is doing no service to the cause of peace in Northern Ireland

Question: How do you turn a volatile and complicated legal saga into a media super-event, easily digestible for the American public? Answer: Take a generous handful of fresh Kennedys, throw them into the pot and stir.

An entire clutch of Kennedys (what is the collective noun? A pantheon? A smirk? A dabbling?) has turned out in Belfast to offer moral support to *Kinsman-in-law* Paul Hill, one of the Guildford Four whose separate conviction for murdering a former soldier in 1974 is under appeal.

There is Courtney Kennedy, daughter of Bobby, who by marrying Mr Hill eight months ago provided *The Family* with its newest celebrity member. There is Ethel, Bobby's widow and Joseph, his son, the curly-haired congressman from Massachusetts, and a smattering of lesser Kennedys: Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Rory Kennedy, Kerry Kennedy Cuomo and Michael Kennedy. They sit in a neat line — the front row, naturally — during the hearing and when they leave the courthouse they are mobbed by cameramen. It is all rather familiar.

"We're here to support my brother-in-law in his struggle for justice in Northern Ireland," announced Joseph Kennedy, sporting a 24-carat tan and a package of soundbites. This technique of legal cheerleading was perfected during the trial of William Kennedy Smith and brilliantly captured by novelist Donal Dunne in his thinly-veiled assault on the Kennedys, *A Season in Purgatory*.

The arrival of the Kennedys has naturally catapulted the story of Paul Hill onto the pages of the American press, but whether it has added to

American understanding of the situation in Northern Ireland is much more doubtful. It was always thus with the Kennedys and Ireland.

"The Troubles Suddenly in Vogue" read a headline in *The New York Observer*. Galvanised by the presence of the American royal family, newspapers in America have offered, at best, a simplistic rundown of the Paul Hill case. As with *In the Name of the Father*, the film about the Guildford Four nominated for four Oscars, the more troubling (and interesting) elements in the story have been ignored, like Gerry Conlon. Paul Hill has been portrayed as simply another innocent victim of British injustice.

"Why hasn't Britain freed Paul Hill?" ran a *New York Times* headline, apparently ignorant of the fact that he has been freed on bail since 1989. For Irish-Americans in general, and the Kennedys in particular, the grim and grey political situation in Northern Ireland is black and white, an opportunity for moral and nationalist posturing, but little serious contemplation.

The Kennedys have a long and chequered history on the subject of Northern Ireland. John F. Kennedy enjoyed warbling about his Irish roots in a sentimental way, but he knew little and cared less about Irish politics. Senator Edward Kennedy can also play the Irish card when required. The younger generation, headed by Joseph Kennedy, has taken a more active stance. The Democratic congressman has successfully put many British



Congressman Joseph Kennedy in Belfast in 1988

noses out of joint (a talent inherited from his pro-German grandfather when he was Ambassador to Britain) by holding a hearing into allegations of human rights abuses in Belfast four years ago.

"They're haves who give a damn about have-nots," says Mr Hill of his glamorous and supportive new relatives. Possibly, but they are also consummate politicians taught from birth to recognise golden PR when they see it. Congressman Kennedy's behaviour in particular has the unmistakable whiff of grandstanding. When, a few years ago, he got into a shouting

match with a British soldier at a checkpoint in Belfast, did he really think he was helping the situation or was he scooping up extra votes in the Irish neighbourhoods of Boston?

There are 40 million people in America who claim Irish ancestry. Their interest in the mother country is usually of a warm and fuzzy "let's have another for the Emerald Isle" variety, or be bibulously celebrated on St Patrick's Day.

The Kennedys are masters at playing to the Irish vote without getting their hands dirty. The visit to the US by Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams is a case in point. Although both Senator Edward and Congressman Joseph were instrumental in getting Mr Adams's visa issued, neither found the time to meet him.

By rallying around Mr Hill, the Kennedys have handed Irish-Americans yet another Northern Irish "issue" to be misunderstood while summing up some illustrious family ghosts, just in case anyone had forgotten. "This family knows better than most what it means to lose loved ones to politically motivated murder," Joe Kennedy said.

In the same week that the Kennedys flocked to Belfast, another relative by marriage, Caroline Kennedy's husband Edward Schlossberg was accused of trying to run over a camera-toting tourist in Palm Beach, Florida. Mr Schlossberg denied aiming his van at John Whoolley from Pennsylvania, but a charge of "aggravated assault" is expected shortly.

So, when they have finished supporting Paul Hill, the troupe may have to do it all again in Palm Beach.

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Forte Porthos, Duxford/Burton. Forte
Porthos, Enfield. The Imperial,
Exmouth. St James Hotel, Grimsby.
Forte Porthos, Halesowen. Forte Porthos,
Hull. Forte Porthos, Llandudno/Selby. Forte
Porthos, Leicesters. The River Boat,
Maiden. The Marina, North Berwick.
The Palace, Polzeath. The Terrace,
Preston. St James Hotel, Perth.
The Ashby Palace, Polesworth. Kippax's
Head Hotel, Rarnworth. Forte Porthos,
Preston. The White Horse, Romsey.
Gyley Manor Hotel, Romsey. The Crown
Hotel, Scarborough. The Grosvenor,
Shaftesbury. The Lion & Sherwood,
The Polygon, Southampton. The Bedford,
Tisbury. Royal Hop Pole, Twickenham.
The Bell, Thurford. Forte Porthos,
Walsingham. The King's Head,
Windsor/Midsize.

3 NIGHTS £121-£138

The Brudenell, Aldeburgh. The Star Inn,
Alfrington. Winstley Hall, Banbury. Forte
Porthos, Birmingham. The Clancor
Hotel, Cannockbury. Forte Porthos,
Canterbury/Aldford. Hotel de la Bore,
Chesterham. The Dolphin & Anchor,
Chichester. The Durr Martin Hotel,
Dorchester. Power of the Peak & Dove/
Ashbourne. The Luttrell Arms, Doncaster.
The Green Dragon, Huddersfield. Manor House
Hotel, Lunningham Spa. The Castle & Bell,
Marlborough. The New Bath Hotel,
Maidstock. The Royal, Rampton. The
Medford, Clarendon. Forte Porthos,
Norwich. The Talbot, Oundle. Forte
Porthos, Pateborough. Forte Porthos,
Pateborough. The Radcliffe Arms,
Preston. Ruxley Court Hotel, Ruxley/
Leicestershire. The Royal, Rampton. The
George & Ivy. The White Hart, Salisbury.
The Unicorn, Seaw-on-the-Wold. Bear of
Rotherham, Stroud. The Redfield,
Widnes. The Manor Hotel, Weymouth.

3 NIGHTS £142-£162

Forte Grand Queen's, Chichester.
Blomston Hotel, Chichester. The Bedford
Bridge Hotel, Donkington Hill. The Swan,
Gosport. The Swan, Lissington. The
White Hart, Lincoln. The White Swan,
Sleaford-upon-Avon. The Old England,
Widnes. The Bear Hotel, Woudstock.

3 NIGHTS £168-£227

The Francis, Bath. The Black Swan,
Hemel Hempstead. Esq. House Hotel,
Sharnbrook. Sleaford-upon-Avon.
Forte Grand Imperial, Tisbury.

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Europe still splits the Tory Party

The Euro-elections herald a new battle, argues Peter Riddell

John Major's European strategy is in danger of unravelling. Ever since he became Prime Minister, party unity has been his priority — whether over the opt-outs from the Maastricht treaty or in the conflicting signals since then. His approach has not always been coherent, but it has kept his party more or less together. However, even that fragile truce is now under threat with the publication of the European People's Party (EPP) manifesto and the possible selection of Sir Teddy Taylor for the Essex South Euro-seat. So even before Tory leaders fret about the likely rout in the Euro-elections on June 9, they have to worry about whether the party can maintain anything resembling a united front.

Douglas Hurd has outlined a programme around which most Tories can unite. It concentrates on attacking Labour and the Liberal Democrats. He presents the Tories as fighting for "a decentralised, free-enterprise, wider Europe, and against a centralised, socialist super-state". Being one of life's conciliators, he is carefully non-committal about monetary union. But it will be very hard to prevent simmering trouble from boiling over before June 9. Euro-sceptics and Euro-enthusiasts (Euro-realists or Positive Europeans as they respectively prefer) are eyeing each other warily. At stake is not just European policy, but the long-term future of the Tory Party.

The main concern of the sceptics is to prevent further integration. They liked Mr Major's article in *The Economist* last September with its sceptical tone and dismissive attitude towards the monetary union. In a pamphlet last month, five young Thatcherites in the No Turning Back group rejected any return to the exchange-rate mechanism and urged a commitment against Britain ever joining a single currency, which "would signal the end of the UK as a nation state". They also want to scrap European citizenship.

Few in this group are exactly fans of Mr Major. But they recognise that none of their own is a plausible successor now, and they are suspicious of the possible candidature of Kenneth Clarke, a committed European. So, as Peter Lilley signalled recently, most Euro-sceptics are willing to back Mr Major, if only for fear of someone worse. An embattled leader who is forced to make gestures in their direction is better than a self-confident successor who disagrees with them.

The Euro-enthusiasts are worried by precisely those comments of Mr Major's which reassure the Euro-sceptics. The 90-strong Positive European group has written to Mr Hurd putting down some markers. These Tory MPs are relaxed about the likely manifesto, with its anti-centralist rhetoric, emphasis on competitiveness and opposition to the social chapter. What worries them is the possible tone of the campaign: whether, in instance, Mr Major and other ministers make a nationalist and anti-British speeches to

appease the sceptics. The key for them is avoiding attacks on European institutions, and instead stressing the advantages of membership and the gains from a larger Tory presence in the European Parliament.

Monetary union is the touchstone. Pro-Europeans will be alarmed if anything is said to preclude either an eventual return to the ERM or the option of joining a single currency. The Maastricht Treaty leaves that option open, while the borrowing plans in the Treasury's Red Book last November suggested that Britain could meet the criteria laid down for economic convergence. So the pro-Europeans accept the truce, provided it is not disturbed by the sceptics, but are likely to react if provoked.

Such provocation is probable. Mr Hurd has distanced the Tories from the EPP pledge to further integration, and argues that Tory MEPs are not full members of the EPP, although they work as part of it at Strasbourg. The Tories will fight in June "wholly and exclusively on a British Conservative manifesto". But several Tory MEPs were observers at the EPP meeting which approved the manifesto, and they differ from Mr Hurd over strengthening the European Parliament. While Tory MEPs have an opt-out from the EPP manifesto commitments on the social chapter and monetary union, they will have to accept other pledges of closer integration if they wish to remain within the EPP grouping. The MEPs are keen to maintain this link, arguing that they would have no influence sitting on their own. But the sceptics will be pressing for a more public repudiation of the EPP's stance, while Mr Hurd's old boss, Sir Edward Heath, has stirred the row by backing most of the EPP manifesto.

The pro-Europeans are sensitive about the possible candidacy of Sir Teddy Taylor. He is a lifelong opponent of the EU, and resigned from the Heath Government over British membership. If Sir Teddy is picked in two weeks' time, the pro-Europeans will seek a public pledge from him that he will back the party's Euro-election manifesto, and if elected, sit with other Tory MEPs at Strasbourg. Euro-sceptics are certain to pour into Essex South in June if he is selected, attracting plenty of media attention which may overshadow the calming efforts of Mr Hurd.

It is all very combustible. The talk on both sides of litmus tests and sticking points is like the bitter Labour battles of the late 1970s and 1980s. Without the authority or power to resolve the European argument one way or the other, Mr Major is doing the only thing he can, trying to unite his party by attacking the Opposition. It may not be enough. Europe could easily split the party if it loses the next election. The next few months may be just a rehearsal.



Scott's salami tactics

Geoffrey Howe QC says the enquiry's witnesses should be better served

Lord Justice Scott's report, when it is published this autumn, should be a text of some importance. Ministers and officials, it has been alleged, "defied their own guidelines on the sale of arms to Iraq. They systematically misled Parliament" about what they were doing. Worst of all, it is said — and this was the real trigger for the enquiry — innocent men could have been jailed, if ministers had succeeded in their "attempt to suppress material evidence".

Are these charges true or false? One of Lord Justice Scott's tasks is to answer that question. From his findings, there is no appeal. His report needs to command the widest possible respect and confidence. Yet expectations and attitudes towards the enquiry differ so widely that this may already be almost beyond reach. If Scott disappoints repeated demands for "heads to roll", he risks being reproached, however unfairly, for "whitewashing". But if those whose conduct he has examined doubt the fairness of the enquiry's procedures, he risks more serious criticism.

Ever since Salmon reported in 1966, those conducting this kind of enquiry, statutory or not, have sought to respect these principles. Inevitably they have done so, as the Scott enquiry is doing, "pragmatically". Danger can arise, however unintentionally, if pragmatism comes to override the principle that justice must be and be seen to be done.

Before entering the Cabinet in 1972, I practised for two decades at the Bar. My professional experience of enquiries of this kind included Lord Edmund Davies's Aberfan tribunal. I represented most of the NCB managers whose conduct was under investigation. And I was chairman of the enquiry into charges of cruelty at Ely Hospital near Cardiff in 1969. This experience was instructive.

In each case, the enquiry team was strengthened — as often happens by the appointment, alongside the legal chairman, of two or three members drawn from the specialist

world being investigated. Lord Justice Scott has not been granted such assistance, although the realms he is exploring — of parliamentary and administrative practice, security and foreign policy — are no less specialised than those of colliery or hospital management. My Ely colleagues provided expert insights and advice. This greatly enhanced the chairman's understanding of the issues — and hugely shortened the proceedings as well.

Equally, our Ely work was helped by the presence of three barristers, one solicitor and two trade union officials as representatives of those whose conduct was under scrutiny. (Although we saw 52 witnesses, this clearly did not require the presence of 52 lawyers.) As the enquiry proceeded, my colleagues and I held "without prejudice" discussions of the issues with these representatives. These informal "summons for directions" helped us to sift the relevant from the surplus questions and again to shorten our proceedings.

At Ely, however, we suffered (as we complained in our report) from the refusal to appoint any counsel or solicitor to the enquiry. The value of such assistance was recently made clear by Sir David Calcutt, in a Fresham lecture about the Falklands Hospital fire enquiry, which he chaired. Such counsel, supported by the Treasury Solicitor, he explained, could assemble and present the relevant evidence "from a totally neutral point of view". This, said Calcutt, "helps to distance the enquiry itself from the heat and dust of the battle".

It was the absence of such plain independent help that provoked the comment in my Ely report that "any British lawyer, in particular, is unhappy in attempting to combine the roles of judge and prosecutor". We were there echoing Lord Denning's earlier anxiety — which I quoted to Lord Justice Scott — at having to combine the roles of "detective, inquisitor, advocate and judge". That was less a complaint than an appreciation of his difficulties.

Lord Justice Scott has had the chance to reduce the risk of being seen to have such a multi-purpose role. For counsel to the enquiry has



indeed been appointed, in the person of Ms Presley Baxendale. But, unusually in my experience, she sits alongside the judge, like a fellow member of the Divisional Court. So far from the distant neutrality that Calcutt commends, the impression gained by witnesses is of an inquisition in double-barrelled form.

This impression is not made any easier by the fact that this is an enquiry at which defence lawyers may be seen but not heard. "Legal representatives," says the government guidance, "may attend the enquiry... but witnesses will be expected to speak themselves and not through their lawyers." The guidance from the enquiry itself says "it is not anticipated" that lawyers "will be invited to address the enquiry or to question witnesses".

It has been suggested, that Lord Justice Scott may hear counsel on one issue: the one with which ministers were grappling last week. This is the question of public-interest immunity certificates. If that exception were made, it would be because this is a question of law. If counsel is to be heard on ministers' behalf, quite

rightly, why should this not apply more widely?

Quite apart from justice to the many other individuals concerned, would not the purpose of the enquiry itself be helped by enabling advocates to be heard on some of the other issues? Even on questions of fact, it would be surprising if any judge sitting alone, could have total confidence in his own unaided ability to avoid significant error in analysing the mountain of evidence that has now piled up.

And on questions of parliamentary propriety, of public administration, of foreign policy evaluation, of intelligence management, might not Lord Justice Scott be helped as well by being able to hear, and test, closing submissions from advocates on behalf of some departments of state? Or on behalf of some of the experienced public servants whom he has seen, and heard?

I raise none of these points on my own behalf. I do so not least because I feel some moral obligation towards the many public servants for whom I once had ministerial responsibility. "You spoke for all of us," one witness has written to me, "who have had to undergo humiliation, even degradation, for doing our duty in good faith and — in fact if not in the fiction which passes for it these days — with honour and a reasonable degree of success." We should not be surprised by this reaction on the part of many, who feel that their case has so far been heard only in their own replies to inevitably hostile-seeming cross-examination. If the enquiry is already being seen in this way by some who have appeared before it, its report will need to be remarkably detached if it is to be seen to achieve justice for all concerned.

The enquiry's procedures were agreed between Lord Justice Scott and the Government. They may yet be varied on the initiative of either party to that agreement. Would they not be hugely improved if some advocates were able to address the enquiry on behalf of those whose reputations now rest with Lord Justice Scott alone? It is my belief that if the Scott report is to be — and to be seen to be — well-founded, respected, useful and above all just, then this suggestion does deserve the most serious consideration.

Lord Howe was Foreign Secretary 1983-89 and Solicitor General 1970-72.

Israel's enemies within

Richard Beeston on the rabbis who endorse murder

When the body of Baruch Goldstein was committed into the muddy ground of his forefathers on a wet and windy Sunday evening in Hebron, the thousand mourners attending his funeral turned out with more than simply the desire to pay their last respects to the perpetrator of Friday's massacre. To the astonishment and disgust of most Israelis, what had appeared on Friday morning to be the work of a deranged individual was endorsed by a small, but not insignificant minority of their countrymen. "One million Arabs are not worth a Jewish fingernail," declared Rabbi Yaacov Perrin, one of a number of religious fanatics who eulogised Goldstein after he was beaten to death by survivors of his machine-gun attack on Muslim worshippers at the Tombs of the Patriarchs.

The funeral exposed what is crystallising into the single biggest problem facing Israel's plans to disengage from the occupied territories and to transfer power to the two million Palestinians living in uneasy coexistence with some 115,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. While Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, may have to contend with the likes of the Islamic fundamentalist movement Hamas, it is now dawning on Israel that it could face a similar threat from the ranks of the bearded, heavily-armed and dangerous fanatics, once dismissed as a loud but inconsequential nuisance.

Although more than half of the settlers have indicated that they would leave their homes if compensated, there is still no suggestion of how to resolve the fate of the remainder. Many are messianic zealots who regard their religious ties to the ancient kingdoms of Judaea and Samaria (today's West Bank) as stronger than their loyalty to Israel. Goldstein's former neighbours in the 6,000-strong community of Kiryat Arba in Hebron are by no coincidence the most militant and best established settlers in the occupied territories.

It is here that Kach, the ultra-nationalist Jewish group founded by the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, has its stronghold. Here the organisation has already embarked on secret paramilitary training for the day when these people will have to fight the Palestinians or the Israeli army for their homes. Rabbi Kahane, who was assassinated in 1990, taught that Arabs should be scattered from their homes like "drugged cockroaches". Now such rantings, continued by equally influential rabbis, must be re-evaluated.

Kiryat Arba was established by Rabbi Moshe Levinger, who has been convicted seven times for attacking Arabs, and was sentenced to a few months in jail for the murder of a Hebron stallholder who fell foul of one of his rampages through the Arab market. Kiryat Arba's main religious leader, Rabbi Dov Lior, is a dapper and respected Talmudic scholar, once tipped for a post in the chief rabbinate until some of his teachings were made public. The rabbi once advocated sending "Arabs to the Garden of Eden", to avenge Jewish deaths. He also suggested "conducting experiments on non-people", meaning Arabs convicted of terrorist acts.

More disturbing, however, are the details of how Rabbi Levinger, Rabbi Lior and another Kiryat Arba holy man, Rabbi Eliezer Waldman, actually encouraged members of the Jewish underground to carry out attacks in the 1980s, effectively giving religious backing to assassination attempts on Palestinian mayors.

While Judaism in Israel covers a wide spiritual terrain — from reform Judaism, which allows women rabbis, to ultra-orthodox groups so extreme that they will not recognise the state of Israel until the arrival of the Messiah — the religious establishment has done its utmost to distance itself from the rise of militant Judaism.

Yesterday, for instance, 44 leading rabbis condemned the attack as an abomination and a desecration of God's name. Israel's chief rabbi, Yisrael Meir Lau, also made the point that the shooting in the Ibrahim mosque took place at the tomb of Isaac, who was himself about to be sacrificed when God intervened to spare him and demonstrate to the Jews the value of human life.

Nevertheless that basic tenet of Jewish belief, not to mention God's explicit commandment on the taking of another life, is largely lost on the zealots of Hebron, who prefer to take their cue from other biblical points of reference.

Only hours after Goldstein had moved down scores of Muslim men and boys as they knelt in prayer, Kahane Hai, an offshoot of the Kach movement, praised the attack as the work of a later-day Samson. "Thus the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and with slaughter, and destruction, and did as they pleased to those who hated them." The statement then continued: "Let all those who condemn the acts of true Jewish heroes be silenced." With fundamentalists like this, ostensibly on its own side, the Israeli government must beware the enemy within.

Batting for Britain

JOHN MAJOR has decided on a quaint, if somewhat unusual, gift for President Clinton while pounding the pavements of Pittsburgh: a Surrey County Cricket Club cap. His choice of present comes in spite of Foreign Office advice that Clinton, a baseball man, once remarked that cricket was "very boring", and follows his presentation on a previous US visit of a cricket bat to the then President, George Bush.

It will therefore come as little surprise that there is speculation in the West Indies about Major's next overseas visit. The England camp currently touring the islands is full of speculation that the Prime Minister will drop in to watch the Fourth Test in Barbados.

Although Downing Street plays down any such notion, the timing is perfect. The Commons will be up for the Easter recess and no formal engagements booked — Major's official diary at Number 10 has nothing entered between April 8 and April 13, the days the Test will take place.

"People are talking about him coming over," admits a source with the touring side. "He wants to come, but it's a question of whether

he can or not." Westminster sources point out that he is likely to make the most of his Easter break. He has ordered every member of the Cabinet to spend the Whitsun recess campaigning for June's European Parliament elections. Obviously he's expecting some googlies from the Opposition.

Not leaves on the line this time, but water. Passengers on British Rail's 10.00am St. Pancras to Derby train at the weekend were astonished to hear a rannoyed request for a pair of Wellington boots from anyone willing to lend them to the driver. He needed them to wade to a signal box after the train had become stuck on flooded track. Duty they were produced and the train once more wended its watery way.

Quietly converted

JOHN GUMMER, our newly Catholicised Secretary of State for the Environment, was beaming all over yesterday after scooping the press with his secret conversion. "I was very pleased with the way things went," he said smugly yesterday. "I didn't want it to be a me-

dia circus, although quite a lot of my friends are in the media so I was quite surprised it didn't leak."

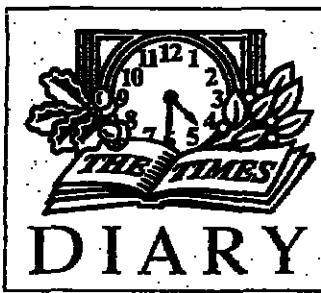
Ann Widdecombe, a companion convert and Tory MP for Maidstone, congratulated him on the furtive nature of his ceremony. "I think he saw what happened to me and realised just how much he wanted to keep it secret," she said. "You see, priests are very used to keeping secrets — it's politicians who don't know how to."

His round

DRINKS flowed freely on Friday evening at the Thames-side headquarters of London Weekend Television, as Greg Dyke, the chief executive, threw a convivial party to console his staff after Granada finally succeeded in its hostile takeover bid.

So freely, in fact, that LWT's loquacious chairman, Sir Christopher Bland, seemed lost for words when Dyke, after his own speech, handed him the microphone with the introduction: "And now over to the only man who knows he will definitely be out of a job next week, Sir Christopher Bland."

Not that Bland was any the worse for wear, one hastens to add. It's just that with staff at LWT facing an uncertain future, those who were tired and emotional started



heckling at Dyke's suggestion that Bland had suffered — beginning by pointing out noisily that he had netted something around £14 million from the take-over.

Tea and sympathy

WITH family values at the forefront of so many MPs' minds nowadays, they will no doubt welcome an invasion of children into their dining room next month. The back-to-basics event is a Victorian tea party organised by the Conservative MP Emma Nicholson and Labour's Clive Soley to demonstrate how antagonistic to the family the atmosphere of the House of Commons feels.

This place is a hundred years out of date when it comes to child care," complains Soley. "What are MPs supposed to do about their

children?" Around a hundred children from Barnardo's, all topped up in Victorian gear, will mingle with MPs' offspring to binge on doughnuts and jelly.

Huffing and puffing

A FAR FROM enjoyable experience was had on Sunday night by our Citizen's Charter minister, William Waldegrave, was travelling en famille with red boxes and, by coincidence, the Liberal Democrat MP Simon Hughes, from Bath to Paddington.

The train was diverted, and he arrived more than three hours late, after a nightmare journey, in which the buffet and bar were inexplicably closed. Passengers were in near revolt, and doubtless the minister will be seeking just compensation from British Rail — as is now possible under the Citizen's Charter.

They also serve

THE redoubtable Mrs Slocombe will be none too pleased to hear the latest plan by John Inman, who played the limp-wristed sales assistant Mr Humphreys in the sitcom *Are You Being Served?*

For her ladies' separates and underwear department will doubtless come under close scrutiny in In-



man's biography, which he is writing with a view to publication on his 60th birthday next year.

Nicholas Smith, who played the confused and big-eared store manager Mr Rumbold in the series — which has taken on cult status in the United States — was also flummoxed by the news. "Given the slightest provocation, all the characters would stab each other in the back," he said. "And the basic thing about Rumbold was that he was a complete idiot."

هكذا قال الامير



PRESIDENTIAL WITNESS

Heseltine raises the stakes at the Scott enquiry

Michael Heseltine's appearance before the Scott enquiry yesterday marked the first serious breach in the Government's show of public solidarity over the arms-for-Iraq affair. In the nine months since the hearings began, most of the ministers and officials who have been cross-examined have maintained the pretence that all is well in Whitehall and — by implication — that the enquiry is a wearisome intrusion. Yesterday the President of the Board of Trade shattered that pretence in a series of pointed answers to Lord Justice Scott's tribunal.

Mr Heseltine was one of four ministers to sign Public Interest Immunity (PII) certificates related to the Matrix Churchill trial, in which executives of the engineering firm were accused of evading export restrictions. Not all the information covered by these so-called gagging orders was germane to the defence case or — in the case of intelligence material — appropriate for full disclosure. But the documents Mr Heseltine was advised to suppress included routine trade department minutes, ministerial correspondence and inter-departmental briefings in which the unannounced relaxation of official guidelines governing arms sales to Iraq was discussed. Had these files not been disclosed, it is likely that the three defendants would have been unjustly jailed.

What emerged yesterday was the extent of Mr Heseltine's misgivings when he signed the certificate and his subsequent anger at the advice he had been given. Instructed by Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, that he was obliged to sign because of the official categories into which the documents fell, he insisted that the certificate be amended "so that the judge should not get any signal... that these documents should not be made available to the defence". Sir Nicholas, Mr Heseltine claimed yesterday, promised that his reservations would be passed on to Judge Smedley, an undertaking which appears not to have been honoured.

Mr Heseltine's testimony strengthens the case for urgent reform of the PII system. At

present, so-called "class claims" enable government departments to request complete suppression of documents merely because of the category of information they cover. It is to Mr Heseltine's credit that he demanded to know why the material he was being asked to withhold from court was "injurious to the public interest". Sir Nicholas will have to answer this question when he appears before the enquiry next month. He must also explain why he told Mr Heseltine that his duty to sign the certificate was binding before the trial — and then gave him contradictory advice in a separate case shortly afterwards. Mr Heseltine's incredulity at this incompetent doubletalk is quite understandable.

His testimony is the most important that the enquiry has heard to date. It places Sir Nicholas under considerable pressure to justify his actions. It also confirms the general impression that ministers were often poorly briefed, particularly on legal matters. Lord Justice Scott should have much to say in his final report on the quality of advice reaching them between the relaxation of the guidelines in 1988 and the trial four years later.

Yet the enquiry must look at more than bureaucratic incompetence and faulty administrative procedure. It must also scrutinise the decisions which ministers took. In a letter to *The Times* yesterday it was alleged that the Government knew of the build-up of Iraqi forces on the Kuwaiti border the week before a Cabinet committee ratified the liberalisation of the guidelines in July 1990. This claim, if true, raises questions about ministerial policy as much as the Civil Service advice that underpinned it.

It should be asked whether the Government knew that British goods which could be used to make nuclear weapons were being exported to Iraq while Saddam's army gathered menacingly at the Kuwaiti frontier. To answer public anxieties, the Scott report will have to be much more than a call for reform in Whitehall.

NECESSARY MEASURES

Nato's appropriate riposte to Serb aggression

In perfect accord with Resolution 816 of the United Nations Security Council, Nato aircraft yesterday shot down four Serb warplanes in the airspace over Central Bosnia. The warplanes had been responsible for an attack on a munitions factory, controlled by the Bosnian government, on the periphery of Novi Travnik, northwest of Sarajevo. Nato's response, uncharacteristically decisive, was entirely apt: Security Council resolutions ban flights by all "fixed-wing aircraft" in all Bosnian airspace. The prohibition, in force since March 31, 1993, is unequivocal: the Serbs cannot seek refuge in Jesuitical interpretations of text and word.

Also prohibited in clear terms are flights by "rotary-wing aircraft". Serb and Croat helicopters, however, have violated the ban with brazen frequency. The Croats, in particular, are known to have used these aerial means to ferry troops to combat zones. But what has been bitter sauce in Iraq for the gooses has — until now — not been sauce for the gander in Bosnia. Helicopters have waltzed through Bosnian airspace, encountering nothing more than the occasional bolt of rhetorical Nato ire. Force has never been used against them, although it should have been on more than one occasion.

Yesterday's response to the first instance of breach of the "no-fly zone" by fixed-wing aircraft was reassuringly swift. It will have been the intention of the Serbs to test the waters — or the air — as regards such aircraft. They can be in no doubt, now, about Nato's new-found resolve: it has shown, albeit thoroughly tardily, that it will carry

out the mandate handed to it by the Security Council, which authorised states, "acting nationally or through regional organisations" to take "all necessary measures" in Bosnian airspace to ensure compliance with the ban on overflight. As the Prime Minister, John Major, put it: "Frankly, they couldn't expect anything else." And the Russian reaction, while measured, has not been negative: it has accepted the legitimacy of Nato's action in shooting down the four warplanes, but has avoided a condemnation of the Serbs for their aggression.

Nato has used its teeth for the first time, *qua* Nato, since its formation in 1949. The significance of this will not be lost on the Bosnian Serbs. But apart from the particular issue of the enforcement of a Security Council resolution, its actions will serve as a more general warning to the Serbs: they cannot hope to switch with facility from Sarajevo to a different theatre of war. It is of the utmost importance that the Serbs, and the Croats, comprehend that Nato is intent on expanding zones of peace beyond Sarajevo, Mostar and Tuzla are next.

But a few hours after the Nato enforcement action, Bosnian Serb forces commenced heavy bombardment of the Muslim-controlled town of Tuzla, which they have besieged remorselessly for more than two years. But the Security Council has given them until March 7 to lift their siege of Tuzla airport. Yesterday's action by Nato must serve as a model for a response to any Serb failure to "unlock" that airport. Nato, at last, is no longer playing at war.

HIGH HOPES

The Charles Douglas-Home award has a worthy winner

Today we give a prize for an institution representing the very best spirits of the age. The prize-giving is in Cardiff, under the auspices of the Prince of Wales. But the recipient is in the East End of London, barely a few minutes from where *The Times* is written and produced.

Yesterday the Home Secretary argued on the page opposite that the revival of voluntary work was central to the revival of the nation, filling the gaps which markets will not fill and which reliance on collectivist institutions has only widened. The Community Links group, based in the former Canning Town Hall, has dedicated itself to voluntary work for 17 years. But, more than that, it has dedicated itself to turning the recipients of its aid into volunteers themselves.

Many of the people who help disturbed children or give advice on finance, debt, domestic disputes and education are the people who a few years ago were at the receiving end. Community Links is an agent for lasting change.

Its headquarters expresses perfectly the changes of political tide that have made its work — and the Home Secretary's call to arms — so necessary. When Canning Town Hall was built in 1954 its great blue-and-gold ceilings, classical pillars and marble plaques clearly expressed the municipal optimism of the time. Later it became a fount of progressive socialist thought, boasting speakers such as Keir Hardie and Bertrand Russell, and the birth of the boiler-makers' union. And then it declined, along with the

inner city that it served, becoming war hospital, coroners' court, flood shelter. Finally it was on the road to ruin.

Today, where mayors once robed, children play in the Tate & Lyle room: where socialist orators orated, there are community offices sponsored by the surveyors, Richard Ellis. The elegant pillars may be obscured by partitions — whatever the Prince may think of the slight to architecture — but the place is doing more good for the people around it than at any time for 50 years.

Local business has contributed handsomely to the partnership between Community Links and the surrounding community. The paintwork gleams, thanks to contributions-in-kind from Dulux that have been applied as though it were a company showcase — which, in an important sense, it is. The office furniture may be unsuitable for Texaco's current requirements but looks better than that at most business addresses.

Community Links, under the determined leadership of David Robinson, has also established itself as an educational focus for other groups attempting to follow the same path. The prize to be given today as one of the Community Enterprise Awards is named in honour of Charles Douglas-Home, editor of *The Times* from 1982 till his death in 1985. We think that he would have approved its awarding to a place, so close to *The Times*, where high hopes, blighted by bad 20th-century dreams, have become hopes once more.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Action urged over Hebron massacre

From Ms Saida Nusseibeh and others

Sir, We represent a group of Palestinians and Jews in this country who have been talking to each other for some ten years in an effort to break out of the mutual animosity of decades. We are appalled at the horrific massacre of the worshippers at prayer in the mosque in Hebron (report, February 26) and offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family and friends they leave behind and the whole of Palestinian society.

Yet it is not enough to condemn this vile deed. An occupying power has an obligation under international law to protect the population under its control. By allowing Israeli settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to bear arms, the Israeli government has to accept its share of responsibility for the massacre.

The latest outrage has many tragic victims but it is imperative that Palestinian-Israeli reconciliation is not among them. The search to effect a peaceful settlement that accommodates the vital needs of both the Israeli and Palestinian peoples must now be pursued with increased urgency. Otherwise, this monstrous act will merely spur still further acts of vengeance and counter-vengeance in a continuing spiral of atrocities.

Yours,
SAIDA NUSSEIBEH,
TONY KLUG,
BASSEM al-BAZ,
JUNE JACOBS,
Council for Jewish-Palestinian Dialogue,
17 Phillimore Gardens, W8,
February 28.

From Mr David Nussbaum

Sir, Israel is being closely watched to see how it responds to the killings in the Hebron mosque. Though the act of a single individual, this massacre is the latest (and particularly horrendous) result of a long policy of repression and colonisation in the West Bank, which successive Israeli governments have either actively encouraged or turned a blind eye to.

If the government of Israel genuinely wants the peace process to continue it must make some gesture of atonement for this horrific act. At the very least it should allow international observers into the occupied territories, as the PLO has requested; and visible and effective means of control should be imposed on those extremist settlers who are openly committed to disrupting the peace process; furthermore, the kind of subsidies which were given to Israelis to persuade them to live in the West Bank should now be offered to them to leave it.

Yours etc,
DAVID NUSSBAUM,
Arts Club, 40 Dover Street, W1,
February 28.

From Mr Barry Ramsay

Sir, Yesterday I attended a West End cinema, where I saw *Schindler's List*. This morning you report a rabbi expressing his view that one million Arabs are not worth one Jewish fingernail.

Can nobody learn from history?

Yours faithfully,
BARRY RAMSAY,
119 Studdard Road, W7,
February 28.

Recycled cans

From Dr David A. Harris

Sir, To suggest (Diary, February 21) that the 1989 *Blue Peter* collection of aluminium beverage cans for the BabyLife appeal in some way distorted the market for recyclables would be hysterically funny if it wasn't serious.

What the *Blue Peter* appeal did was to raise the public awareness of the potential for recycling aluminium cans and it also raised a considerable sum of money for a worthwhile charity.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID A. HARRIS
(Secretary General),
Aluminium Federation,
Broadway House, Calthorpe Road,
Five Ways, Birmingham B15,
February 23.

War's second wind

From Mr J. H. R. Colvin

Sir, Simon Jenkins's point ("War gets a second wind", February 23) about escalation as applied to the fighting in the former Yugoslavia is correct, and chilling.

But President Johnson in 1965 did not send a "handful of advisers" to Da Nang: it was too late for that. He sent the first US combat troops to Vietnam, two battalions of the Marine Corps. One landed on the beach, the other by air on March 8 at Da Nang.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN COLVIN
(HM Consul-General, Hanoi, 1965-67),
12a Evelyn Mansions,
Carlisle Place, SW1,
February 23.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

Power from the wind, friend or foe?

From Mr Toby Wynn

Sir, Dr Peter Musgrove asserts (letter, February 23) that "wind turbines do not adversely affect the local flora and fauna". It is his company's proposal to build 44 wind turbines, about the height of Nelson's column, on Flaxton Hill, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, that has prompted the wave of protests (report and leading article, February 19).

This is a proposed site of special scientific interest and special protection area. Upland moorland is a globally scarce ecosystem. It is Europe's equivalent of rain forest, in that it supports the arachnids and insects, which are nature's larder. In their environmental statement the applicants state that the moorland is currently being threatened by grazing sheep and fell walkers! It is a fragile ecological system presently in precarious balance. The peat is very shallow, being between 0.5 and 3 metres deep. It has taken 3,500 years to reach its present state.

The company, National Wind Power, proposes to construct 9.2 kilometres of access roads on the moor, each 5.5 metres wide, to service its installation. The foundations for the turbines will be dug deep into the moor. Common sense would indicate that this site will be destroyed.

Yours faithfully,
TOBY WYNN,
11 Kings Bench Walk, Temple, EC4,
February 24.

From Mr Michael Harper

Sir, The intermittent nature of the wind (Sir Bernard Ingham's letter, February 24) does not prevent wind energy from making a valuable contribution to the country's electricity supply since the system can easily accommodate the variability. According to government-sponsored public attitude studies conducted in Cornwall, Sir Bernard's position on wind energy represents the views of a very small minority of people. Of the population living within three miles of the first wind farm in Cornwall, 84 per cent either approved or strongly approved of wind energy compared with only 4 per cent who expressed disapproval.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL HARPER
(Director),
British Wind Energy Association,
4 Hamilton Place, W1,
February 24.

Traffic and asthma

From the Director of the National Asthma Campaign

Sir, In view of your recent reports on the relationship between traffic pollution and asthma (February 3, 5, 12, 18) may I highlight the important difference between what we already know and what we can still only speculate about.

It is known that, in people who already have asthma, exposure to traffic pollution at levels common in British cities can cause asthma attacks. This has at last been publicly acknowledged by the Government's Chief Medical Officer, Sir Kenneth Calman.

Current government advice to vulnerable individuals is to listen to the daily air-quality reports available from the Department of the Environment and refrain from outdoor activities on days when pollution levels are high. People with asthma cannot simply be expected to stay indoors for the rest of their lives; a transport policy has to recognise the need to reduce vehicle emissions as an urgent matter of public health.

It is not, on the other hand, known what part traffic pollution plays in causing asthma to develop in previously healthy individuals. Asthma prevalence has been rising over the past 20 years and, apart from the need to find a cure for this life-threatening condition, the most urgent question in asthma science is what lies behind this rise: there are several hypotheses and, apart from genetic factors and

Bow Group's ethos

From the Chairman of the Bow Group

Sir, In the light of your report (February 21) of Stonewall's claim that the Bow Group supports the lowering of the age of consent for homosexuals to 16, I would like to reiterate the central and unique tenet of the Bow Group constitution.

The group does not have a corporate view or a policy line, but encourages its members to pursue their own policy beliefs, and assists them in publishing those views.

The briefing paper to MPs, "The Age of Consent: A Matter for the Bedroom or the Courtroom?", was the personal view of its three authors. I welcome the paper as a timely and informative contribution to the debate, but it is inaccurate to portray all Bow Group members as backing its conclusions.

Indeed, it would have been perfectly legitimate for the Bow Group to simultaneously publish a paper advocating a raising of the age of consent. The group is a "policy arena", open to individuals from all sides of Conservative opinion.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CAMPBELL,
Chairman, The Bow Group,
92 Bishop's Bridge Road, W2,
February 22.

From Mr Richard M. Francis

Sir, How interesting to contrast the letters from Dr Philip Surman and Dr Peter Musgrove (February 23) with that of Sir Bernard Ingham the following day.

Clearly Dr Musgrove has a vested interest in building as many wind farms as he can before public opposition becomes so great that no more will be allowed. In the 1940s much of the population embraced the idea of endless, cheap, pollution-free generation from nuclear power stations. Public opinion has since changed and I have no doubt that it will also soon come out strongly against these wind power stations being built in our most beautiful countryside.

Let us hope that such opinion will make the Government change its mind about subsidising these monstrosities sooner rather than later, as I fear that the taxpayer will again be faced with the cost of decommissioning them.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD M. FRANCIS,
Plas Cefnwyn, Bontgoch,
Talybont, Dyfed,
February 24.

From Mr David Howell, MP for Guildford (Conservative)

Sir, You should send your photographer to get a picture of the huge wind farm spreading spikily across the Welsh hills at Llandinam, or a picture of the hills above the Upper Wye valley, where wind farm applications are crowding in.

These are vivid examples of the way in which greedy promoters and absurdly over-generous public subsidies are damaging some of the loveliest parts of Britain and ruining the otherwise quite sensible case for wind energy as a useful, although marginal, energy resource.

A much more balanced approach to this whole issue is long overdue.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HOWELL,
House of Commons.

From Mr Peter R. Carpenter

Sir, I would rather live under the shadow of a windmill than a nuclear power plant.

Yours faithfully,
PETER R. CARPENTER,
Caer Llan Conference Centre,
Lydart, Monmouth, Gwent.

occupational asthma, only one proven culprit — smoking by a mother during pregnancy — is now known significantly to increase the risk of the child developing asthma.

The conclusions are twofold. First, government commitment and funds are urgently needed to allow a major programme of serious research into the causes of asthma. At present, the National Asthma Campaign, a charity entirely dependent on voluntary donations, far outstrips the Government as Britain's largest non-commercial funder of asthma research.

We question whether it is right that this task should be left largely to charity. We are not alone: 71 per cent of MPs, in a recent National Asthma Campaign poll, agreed that more resources should be put into asthma research.

Second, there is a very real danger that, if a general belief develops that asthma is all down to pollution, people will ignore important educational messages about preventive steps they themselves can take. The scenario of the parents of an asthmatic child who continue to smoke, refuse to give up the family cat, and neglect basic dust-control measures while blaming the asthma on other people's cars, is already worryingly common.

Yours faithfully,
MELINDA LETTS,
Director,
National Asthma Campaign,
Providence House,
Providence Place, NI,
February 18.

Words old and new

From Mr George Chowdhary-Best

Sir, Philip Howard asserts (article, February 18) that "gay", meaning homosexual, is much older than the 1930s, when it is first recorded in the Oxford English Dictionary.

In my view he misunderstands the evidence of John Saul, as reported in the case of *Euston v Parke* (the so-called "Cleveland Street scandal" of 1899-90). Thus in the *Star* of January 16, 1890 (DPP file 1/95/2 at fo. 87) Saul is reported as saying: "I worked hard at cleaning the houses of the gay people, the gay ladies on the beat."

Such a use might seem at first sight to carry an implication of homosexuality unless one recalls that the word had been used of someone of loose morals of either sex but of heterosexual orientation for at least a century.

The "gay people, the gay ladies on the beat" were clearly heterosexual tarts or prostitutes. It may be of course, that Mr Howard has found other, more convincing evidence in this case. If so, he has not told your readers about it, nor was it in his entertaining and informative *New Words for Old*.

If he has such evidence, I think he should now produce it.

Yours faithfully,
G. CHOWDHARY-BEST,
21 Walpole Street, SW3,
February 18.

Legal rights lost in car parks

From the Deputy Director-General of the Automobile Association

Sir, The AA is greatly concerned that motorists have virtually no legal rights for their property or personal security in car parks because of an anomaly within the Fair Trading Act 1973. The Act excludes car parking from the definition of either "goods" or "service" — though it is included under these terms in the Competition Act 1980.

Mr Neil Hamilton, parliamentary under secretary of state at the Department of Trade and Industry, announced on April 14, 1993 (report, April 15, 1993), that he would consider changes to property rights under both the Competition Act and the Fair Trading Act. However, no further statement has been issued.

Clearly, car park operators offer a service to customers, who pay to use their premises. And as customers, they should have legal rights that protect both their property and themselves when they use these facilities.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH FAIRCLOTH,
Deputy Director-General,
The Automobile Association,
Norfolk House, Priestley Road,
Basingstoke, Hampshire,
February 23.

Driver's handicap

From Mr Jeremy Nicholls

Sir, Aubrey Clayphan (letter, February 22) rightly bemoans the hassle and additional expense many UK drivers who holiday in Europe still endure in arranging additional car insurance cover. However, times are changing, and increasingly the UK's larger insurance companies do not charge for Green Card cover.

Some insurers, like my own company, have gone one step further by simply removing the need for a Green Card in most cases. We have extended our "complete car-cover" policy to include Europe at no extra cost. Our motive was to benefit the customer, but it also made commercial common sense, in that the full cost of the administration was arguably greater than the additional premium we charged the customer for a Green Card.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY NICHOLLS
(Marketing Manager),
Prudential Assurance,
250 Euston Road, NW1,
February 22.

US dead in Thailand

From the Director-General of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Sir, Admiral Jungius (letter, February 28) refers to the refusal by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to allow the erection of a memorial plaque at Kanchanaburi war cemetery, Thailand, to commemorate the Americans who died working on the death railway.

Whilst we were sympathetic to the sentiments underlying the request, there were a number of reasons why we were reluctantly compelled to turn it down. The commission's war cemeteries, throughout the world, are places for the burial of the Commonwealth war dead and the commemoration of the missing on memorials. Under the terms of the various formal war graves agreements the use of the land is narrowly defined for this purpose. Occasionally, as in the case of the Dutch — Kanchanaburi, other nationals buried in the cemeteries and, of course, they are equally honoured.

The war cemeteries are not, however, designed to house commemorative memorials to other nationals, who may be commemorated or lie buried elsewhere. Nor can the commission look at the request for the American plaque in isolation. Very many requests are received to erect commemorative features of one sort or another at war cemeteries. However compelling any individual case may seem, it would place the commission in an invidious position to agree to some and reject others.

A further consideration is the effect on the aesthetics of the architect-designed cemeteries were we to accede to these approaches.

We understand that other sites in Thailand for the American memorial have been considered. These efforts have met with some difficulties but we would very much hope that a suitable site, outside the war cemetery, may prove to be the solution.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID KENNEDY,
Director General,
Commonwealth War Graves Commission,
2 Marlow Road,
Maidenhead, Berkshire.

Now hear this

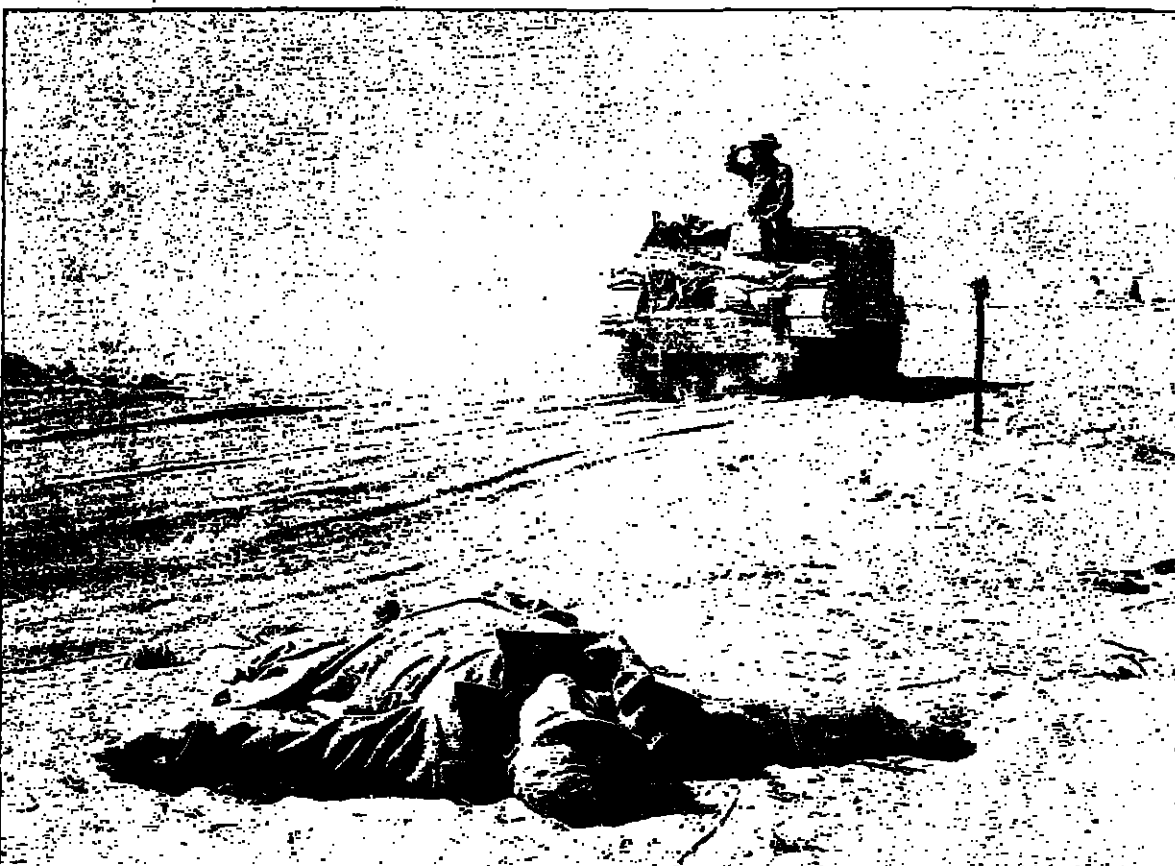
From Mr Brian Bartram

Sir, *The Times* (February 22) tells us that, with the coming of the Channel tunnel services, announcements at Waterloo station are to be made in French. But at my local station they are already made in French — or is it German, or Spanish, or Swedish...?

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN BARTRAM,
88 Ullswater Road, N14.

OBITUARIES

DERRICK KNIGHT



Desert Storm: An Afrika Korps soldier lies dead in the path of a British armoured personnel carrier

Derrick Knight, documentary film maker and photo-journalist died on February 20 aged 74. He was born on September 18, 1919.

THE drama of Derrick Knight's most memorable photographs brings into vivid relief the conflicts of which he was the visual chronicler. An Afrika Korps soldier lying dead on the burning sands of North Africa; a British Tommy pouring stungum fire from the shattered window of a house; an American tank nosing cautiously past the road sign which announces an Italian village: these are among the memorable images of the Second World War.

Knight did many other things in his life. He was schooled in documentary film-making and, much later in his career, found a new lease of life as a forces public relations officer. But, perhaps, his war photographs are his most enduring achievement.

After leaving Whitgift School, Croydon in 1936 he joined John Grierson's GPO Film Unit. As such he was the last surviving member of that renowned team which made many outstanding documentary film epics: *Night Mail*, *North Sea* and *Song of Ceylon*.

When war was broke out in 1939 he joined the Royal Artillery as an anti-aircraft gunner. Commissioned in 1941, he took part in the air defence of Newcastle and Falmouth. When, in 1941, the Army Film Unit was set up by David MacDonald he joined it and went out to the 8th Army in North Africa. There, he worked on *Desert Victory* and other films which recorded the struggle between the 8th Army and the Rommel's Afrika Korps. Throughout the war he worked in both cine and still: among his abiding memories was the visit of Churchill to British troops in North Africa, which he recorded.

After the North African campaign was over he joined the US 5th Army for the Salerno landings and the drive towards Naples. There, he linked up with a group of four others, including Bela Zola of the *Daily Mirror*, who were all eager to get pictures. They pressed on to a village near Pompeii but were cut off by a German counter-attack. They hid until it was dark, before trying to escape back to their own lines. Three men went down one side of the street and two down the other. A German tank opened fire,

killing three of the group. On the other side of the street, Zola and Knight got away. Subsequently Knight was appointed MBE.

The next landing he covered was in Normandy, after which he was wounded at Caen. Thereafter he went through France and into Holland.

He was then chosen to take charge, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, of a newly formed Army film unit in South East Asia. He worked closely with Lord Mountbatten, and a friendship sprang up between the two men which lasted until the latter's tragic death.

At the end of the war, with documentary film-making in the doldrums Knight turned once again to still photography. He joined Shell as chief photographer, travelling the world in the worldwide campaign to re-establish its corporate image.

He was a member of the councils of the Royal Photographic Society (RPS)

and the Institute of British Photographers, and was president of the RPS during the Queen's Jubilee Year when he got the Royal Family to agree to take part in an exhibition of Royal pictures taken by themselves.

After leaving Shell in 1960 he became the manager of Press Association/Reuter Photos. He transformed their working techniques. The Dickensian darkrooms were refurbished and became the most modern black and white and colour laboratories in Fleet Street.

He believed the Press Association (PA) should extend its activities into the field of international journalism. But he was frustrated by the PA management's inward looking policy at that time.

In 1971, as a rather disappointed man, Knight resigned at the age of 52. He joined the Ministry of Defence public relations team first becoming an

RAF press officer. Soon afterwards he got into Army public relations, and found himself covering one last war — the Falklands — during which he worked at Ministry of Defence headquarters in Whitehall.

In 1984, his year of retirement, he was with an Army PR team which accompanied the Queen to Normandy for the 40th Anniversary of D-Day. He was the only member of the team who was there on June 6, 1944.

After retirement he and his wife moved to Kyrenia in Northern Cyprus. He acted for four years as chairman of the British Residents' Society and continued to take part in the welfare of the small British community on that part of the island.

He was a co-author of *Scoop, Scandal and Strife*, a history of photojournalism in Fleet Street.

He is survived by his wife Jane and two sons.

T. C. SKEFFINGTON-LODGE

T. C. Skeffington-Lodge, former Labour MP and leading Christian Socialist, died on February 23 aged 89. He was born on January 15 1905.



Thomas Skeffington-Lodge was an indefatigable political campaigner and an ardent writer of letters to newspapers. He exercised his epistolary talents in frequent contributions, usually in unmeasured if not lyrical terms, often praising the leadership of the likes of Harold (now Lord) Wilson or of Arthur Scargill, whom he once described as being "a Christian and firm believer that Jesus was a Socialist".

Thomas Cecil Skeffington-Lodge was educated at Giggleswick and Westminster Schools. He was a born and bred Yorkshireman and as a young man worked in advertising and public relations in the north of England and in London. He later had a close association with the mining industry when he was northern area organiser for the then Coal Utilization Council, serving on numerous coal trade committees in the north-east, the north-west and Yorkshire. On the outbreak of war in 1939 he became an official of the Mines Department but in 1941 volunteered for the Royal Navy.

In the Labour landslide of 1945, Skeffington-Lodge was elected MP for Bedford, which he represented for the next five years. He was a member of the Parliamentary Delegation at the Nuremberg Trials, undertook a lecture tour of America in 1949 under the auspices of the Anglo-American Parliamentary Group, and served on a number of postwar Parliamentary delegations. From 1950 to 1952 he was personal assistant to the chairman of the Colonial Development Corporation.

Skeffington-Lodge was a veteran of several campaigns

— at York in 1951, mid-Bedfordshire in 1955, Grantham in 1959 and a by-election at Brighton Pavilion in March 1969 when he had the humiliating dissatisfaction of seeing his party lose nearly 12,000 votes. It was this by-election which saw his Conservative opponent, Julian Amery, romp back to Westminster after an interval of three years. The result coincided with Amery's birthday and Skeffington-Lodge remarked at the declaration: "I want to wish Mr Amery many happy returns of the day but I don't wish him many happy returns to Parliament."

During his spell in Parliament and in subsequent campaigns, Skeffington-Lodge was a trade union sponsored MP. At a time of controversy over such sponsorship he pointed out that some constituency parties felt obliged to choose a trade unionist because often only they were in a position to contribute to election and other expenses. He recalled that he had once missed adoption in a winnable seat before the war because, although he was active in his trade union branch, he was not at that time on the parliamentary panel of his union. Of his experiences of trade union MPs during his time in Parliament he wrote: "I often found more consistency, loyalty, balanced judgment and common sense among the trade union MPs than we were sometimes evident among those who had not come up the hard way to parliamentary life."

One of the major activities of his life was associating politics with Christianity in the hope, as he put it, "of erecting fairer national and international living conditions for mankind." He had been vice-president of the Socialist Christian Movement, a member of the Parliamentary Ecclesiastical Committee, a former chairman of the Socialist Christian League and the Parliamentary Socialist Christian Group, and was a veteran of the German-British Christian Fellowship. "The Labour Party in Britain springs primarily from Christian sources and I think we need to capture that outlook in the party," he once wrote. In 1969 a West German television company featured him in a documentary film as an exemplar of the Christian in politics.

Skeffington-Lodge was an extensive traveller and a man of varied interests. He was active in many organisations, including the Sussex branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Georgian Group, and Friends of the Lake District, as well as Amnesty International, the British-Soviet Friendship Society and the Anglo-German and Anglo-Belgian Associations.

In the 1960s he investigated his eligibility for the peerage as Baron Swillington of York, a title dating from the time of Edward III. His inquiry was initiated when, on the death of a distant cousin, solicitors sent him the documents they had been using to try to establish a claim to the barony. For Skeffington-Lodge it was an academic exercise since had he succeeded in establishing a claim he would have renounced it. He was unmarried.

LEOPOLD KOHR

Leopold Kohr, Austrian-born philosopher and economist, died in hospital in Gloucester on February 26 aged 84. He was born in the village of Oberndorf, in 1909.

THOUGH the concept of "Small is Beautiful" is always associated with Fritz Schumacher, whose book of that title arguing against continual economic growth, the mass state and the multinational corporation, appeared in 1973, Leopold Kohr regarded his own work as anticipating Schumacher's. His political ideal was the small city state and in his major work, *The Breakdown of Nations* (1957), he was insistent that the wealth and splendour of Renaissance Europe was due to

the smallness of its units as much as the poverty and ugliness of modern states was due to their giant size.

The only modern state which approached his ideal, he would urge, was Switzerland, where division into small self-governing cantons ensured peace (among German, French, Italian and Romansch-speaking inhabitants), stability and prosperity.

Born in the Salzburg province of Austria, Leopold Kohr studied law, international law, political science, history and economics at the universities of Innsbruck, Paris, Vienna and later, at the London School of Economics. In 1937 he covered the Spanish Civil war as a journalist and met men like Hemingway and Orwell on the battlefields.

Later he went to Paris where he published anti-Nazi pamphlets. After *Anschluss*, which brought his country under the Nazi yoke in 1938, he emigrated to the United States, where he lectured at Rutgers University, New Jersey and later in Canada and at the University of Puerto Rico. While he was in Puerto Rico his daily contributions to the *San Juan Star*, full of arresting insights and mischievous humour, became required reading.

Kohr called himself a philosophical anarchist, but he brought to his anarchism a constant bubbling stream of wit and humour despite the fact that his theories assailed a great many of the leading assumptions of both politicians and economists. His

basic attack was on the scale of things in the modern world. Things had ceased to work properly because nations and industries had become too big and had become unmanageable.

He backed his theories with a wealth of allusion from his early legal and classical studies and Aristotle's "To the size of a state there is a limit as there is to plants, animals and implements, for none of these retain their natural facility when they are too large", was the starting point of the main thrust of his teaching. However, published as it was at the high tide of Eisenhowerism, *The Breakdown of Nations* received a much more muted reception than Schumacher's *Small is Beautiful*, published in the sceptical Seventies.



Despite the fact that he wrote a succession of other books, *The Overdeveloped Nations*, *Development Without Aid*, *The Inner City* and *The Academic Inn*, Kohr was comparatively little known in his native Austria, where the city of Salzburg awarded him its rare honour, The Golden Ring, and established an institute bearing his name. But Schumacher himself described Kohr as: "the man from whom I have learned more than from anyone else", a fitting tribute, perhaps, to one who may be said to have initiated a revolution in human thought.

On leaving America in 1974 Kohr came to Britain and served for some years as an extra-mural tutor at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. He settled in Gloucestershire where he was to spend the remainder of his life.

Despite his close friendship with a woman companion for many years he never married. When his lifelong deafness became allied in old age with failing eyesight he was wont to joke that only thing he seemed to like to do now was drive a car.

JEAN SABRAN

Jean Sabran, author, died in Paris on January 19 aged 85. He was born at Hyeres on February 21, 1908.

JEAN SABRAN was author of a hundred novels under his own name or under various pseudonyms. Of these, Paul Berna — used for his children's books — was best-known to English-speakers through the 19 books published in translation between 1957 and 1977.

Sabran's father, an engineer, was killed in action within weeks of the outbreak of the First World War and Sabran was brought up by an uncle and educated by the Marists at Fribourg, in Switzerland. Holidays, spent on his grandparents' estates in the Var, gave him his lasting love for his coast. His ambition to write steered him against the disappointment of the rejection of his first three novels and the frustrations of the petty and often ill-paid jobs he held between 1930 and his success at his fourth attempt in 1946.

His fiction was to include his prize-winning *Vagabond des Andes* (as Bernard Deleuze in 1953), but simultaneously — and under the name of Philippe Gerrard — he was establishing his detective stories with his award-winning *Deuil en rouge* (1959). Sabran's abiding claim to fame — at least among English-speakers — was *Le Cheval sans tête* which won the Grand Prix Littéraire du Salon de l'Enfance in 1955 and was published as *A Hundred Million Francs* in London and as *The Horse Without a Head* in New York in 1957. It demonstrates fully the author's ability to create atmospheric setting (an industrial suburb of Paris); sharply

drawn character (the working-class child heroes and heroines and a supporting cast of adults); bolsterous humour and a convincing plot (the uncovering of a great train robbery) for which Paul Berna was perhaps indebted to Philippe Gerrard.

Sabran's *Secret of the Missing Boat* (1966) was awarded an Edgar by the Crime Writers of America and there is more than a touch of authenticity whenever crime occurs in his other children's books. These were set not only in urban and rural France but in



such diverse places as the South Pacific and even on the Moon (in two early and ingenious pieces of space fiction). Inevitably, time has taken its toll of their popularity, but two books deserve to be remembered among the many so widely translated into other European languages. *Flood Warning* (1962), a gripping story of disaster overtaking a boarding school in the Loire

Valley, and *They Didn't Come Back* (1969) for its sensitive portrayal of the heroism and tragedy of the Resistance to young people of the postwar world.

A *Hundred Million Francs* must, however, stand on its own and can lay claim to the English-speaking world to the classic status it enjoys in France. The hard-cover edition remained in print until the late 1980s and the paperback until the early 1990s; it was published as a school text in both the original French and in translation and it was filmed by Walt Disney. More than that, it was a milestone in children's literature. As one of the earliest and best of stories for children with an authentic urban setting and working-class children for its heroes, it broke the comfortable middle-class mould of so many of its English contemporaries and breathed a whiff of garlic and *gros rouge* into their tuck-and-cocoa atmosphere.

Jean Sabran wrote until 1976, despite a rare infection which in 1973 had cost him the sight of one eye and seriously impaired the vision of the other. He bore this disability with characteristic courage and cheerfulness, supported by his wife Jany (the children's writer Jeanne Saint-Marcoux whom he married in 1958) and by their two sons. It was some consolation to him to see *Le Cheval sans tête* become a classic in France and to enjoy a revival of interest in his detective stories, ten of which had been reprinted by the time of his death.

Jean Sabran was a model of professionalism and a man of great modesty and charm. His English friends will remember with affection his visits to London and will have the happiest memories of the hospitable family home at Neuilly.

PERSONAL COLUMN

MEMORIAL SERVICES

LITTELTON - Honorable Mrs Judith Littleton, Tuesday 19th April 11.30am at St Nicholas, Highgate. **PERKINS** - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Francis Perkins, C.B.E. D.S.C. will be held at St Lawrence Jewry, 100, Old Broad St, London EC4A 3DF, on Wednesday 30th March at 11.30am.

BIRTHDAYS

MENZIES - Daisy, a very beautiful girl, is to be married to Mr. James Menzies, on Monday, 28th March, at St. Paul's Church, London.

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AT THE BRITISH ACADEMY

URBANITY - Among things not generally known I think must be reckoned the British Academy. It is "worn in mystery". What and why and wherefore, precisely, is it? Was it founded by some British Cardinal Richelieu? Is it preparing the dictionary of our language? Does it confer Prizes for Virtue? Do its members wear an official uniform? Are they Forty Immortals? Or some other number and comparatively mortal? Answers to all these questions I dare say are to be found in those bibles of the Academy on its shelves, but that is just my point, the world at large ought not to be put to the labour of research about a body bearing a name so august. It ought to be as conspicuous as the sun at noonday, as familiar in our mouths as household words. Yet the general public, I dare say, know less about it than they do about, say, Buck's Club or the Sandemans or the Set of Odd Volumes. I haven't the remotest idea who its members are (they ought to print "Of the British Academy" on their waterpiper and the title-pages of their books, if they have written any) save one, Mr. Balfour, whom I discovered a few days ago to be its president. If they are all at that level, they ought to come out and show themselves. It is simply perverse of a body that calls itself the British Academy to court the obscurity...

ON THIS DAY

March 1 1922

THE BRITISH ACADEMY FOR THE PROMOTION OF HISTORICAL, PHILOSOPHICAL AND LITERARY STUDIES

The room was soon filled to overflowing by a crowd eager to listen to the annual Warton Lecture on English Poetry (here, evidently, was one use of the British Academy) to be delivered by an English poet, Mr. John Drinkwater. They were, no doubt, the poetry-loving section of that floating population of intellectuals whom the vulgar call "highbrows," but failed, in the platform phrase, "to indicate the same in the usual way," that is to say, to exhibit the long hair and rumble hats which, in my late-Victorian innocence, I cannot help associating with poetry. There was, in fact, nothing picturesque about them. Unmistakable girl-students were in the majority, a class who have my respectful

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RESEARCH FOR POSSIBLE CURES FOR CANCER CURRENTLY NEARING COMPLETION IN AFRICA

A series of documentary films, reviewing research being conducted in Africa regarding possible cures for cancer will be screened at 3 pm from 25th February 1994 to 2nd March 1994, on weekdays only. An entrance fee of £1 per person will be levied. For all enquiries please contact: 071 839 6102.

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DAY MARCH 1 1994



SMALL BUSINESS 32

Another winner
for a former
racing driver



ARTS 39-41

Soft heart in
the dark art of
Medardo Rosso



SPORT 42-48

Venables names
his first squad
for England

LAW: TAKING
CONTEMPT
TOO FAR?
Pages 35-37

THE TIMES

TUESDAY MARCH 1 1994

L&G fined by Lautro for rule breaches

By Sara McConnell
PERSONAL FINANCE
CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Britain's largest life companies has been fined a record £400,000 by its regulator after admitting three charges of misconduct, including failure to maintain proper records of cash receipts from customers.

Legal & General was forced to pay a fine of £180,000 and £220,000 costs to the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro).

This is the highest fine ever imposed by Lautro on any of its members and indicates the seriousness of the charges, the regulator said.

Two inspection visits by Lautro, in July 1991 and October 1992, uncovered "substantial compliance deficiencies amounting to serious breaches of the Lautro rules". When Lautro paid its second visit in 1992, some rule breaches detected on the first had still not been remedied.

Among the deficiencies identified by Lautro investigators were "defects in the control and handling of client money, principally concerning failures to reconcile cash receipts and paying-in books".

Some L&G branches that collected premiums in cash from policyholders had failed to record and reconcile these properly with the rest of their books, L&G admitted this was "fairly serious". It said: "The money would get to where it was supposed to be but the books didn't always tally." There is no suggestion that customers were being defrauded. No customers have had to be compensated for loss of funds.

Lautro also found that L&G

■ The insurer is now reviewing its local sales managers' contracts and putting emphasis on the importance of low lapse rates

had failed to monitor and control its salespeople, particularly its direct sales force. In particular, it found "a high level of factfinds were unsatisfactorily completed".

In some cases, the company had left it to local sales managers to check that salespeople were complying with the rules, instead of controlling compliance centrally.

Sales agents are meant to fill in "factfinds", forms which show that they have obtained details about customers' incomes, tax positions and financial commitments. But forms containing inadequate information about customers and the advice they had been given were passed by local sales managers.

Similarly, L&G did not have the central systems in place for identifying potential problems such as high lapse rates on policies, Lautro said. Large numbers of people cashing in policies early are an important indicator of possible "churning" of policies (when policyholders are advised to cash in policies and take out others, thus earning salespeople commission).

Lautro said lack of systems at L&G had meant "an inability to tell whether this was going on or not".

L&G admitted that its attempt to "decentralise" compliance and make salespeople responsible for their own compliance had made its central control "divided and weak". It said: "Salesmen are involved

in the selling process so we believed, and we still believe, it is right for them to take charge of compliance. They should be checking themselves that what they have given was best advice. But we decentralised our system and got caught out with inconsistencies across the network."

The "decentralised" system was put into place under Joe Palmer, group chief executive of L&G from 1984 to 1991, the company confirmed. Mr Palmer is now chairman of the Personal Investment Authority, which will monitor and regulate all companies and salesmen selling investments, including life assurance and personal pensions. However, L&G said Mr Palmer was responsible for all policies sold by the company, not just life policies. It said: "It wouldn't be right to single anyone out. It [decentralisation] was done with good intent."

Lautro accepted L&G's claim that its failure to comply with Lautro rules was "not deliberate".

L&G is now reviewing its local sales managers' contracts, emphasising the importance of low lapse rates and properly filled in factfinds. The company also hopes to extend this to salesmen, who will be told that business from them will not be accepted by head office unless factfinds are properly filled in and signed. Since last year, factfinds have had to be checked by a central office in Hove, Sussex, not just by local sales managers.



Levitt, pictured after being sentenced to 180 hours' community service, can never again work as a financial adviser

Roger Levitt banned for life

By Jon Ashworth

ROGER Levitt, the disgraced financial adviser, has been banned from the financial services industry for life in a decision of unprecedented severity by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB).

Levitt, sentenced to 180 hours' community service and disqualified from serving as a director for seven years in November, after he admitted fraudulently misleading City regulators, has had a disqualification order made against him under Section 59 of the Financial Services Act 1986. This means he will never again be employed in connection with investment business without the SIB's consent.

The ban is the first of its kind against an individual in the UK. Levitt pleaded guilty to a minor charge of misleading the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra), rather than fight two more serious fraud charges, and was sentenced accordingly. The Levitt Group collapsed in December 1990, with debts of £34

million. Andrew Large, the SIB's chairman, has been hinting at use of wider powers under Section 59 since a review of financial services regulations was published in May 1993.

Regulators played down the significance of the order yesterday, saying it was designed to protect investors and discourage would-be fraudsters rather than specifically to punish Levitt. However, the fact that Levitt was not sent to prison is believed to have encouraged the SIB to act.

A similar order is likely to be made against Peter Clowes, former head of the Barlow Clowes gilt business, who was sentenced to ten years imprisonment after being found guilty of theft and fraud but could be released as early as June 1995. Levitt's solicitor, Geoffrey Goldkorn, declined to comment on the SIB's decision.

Former employees of The Levitt Group greeted it with bemusement. One former Levitt salesman, who did not wish to be

named, said: "Who would ever employ him anyway? Who would license him? This is just a token gesture."

Levitt was discharged from bankruptcy on December 13, two weeks after his trial ended. He had previously been disqualified from serving as a director for seven years — with the intention, the court heard, of protecting the public "for a very long time to come".

During the trial, the court heard that he had tried his hand at various jobs since 1989, ranging from selling car alarms to acting as a commercial manager to Lennox Lewis, the boxing champion.

Tough new regulations on insider dealing came into force today, when a provision of the Criminal Justice Act 1993 becomes law. The regulations, in line with an EC directive, bring government debt, Eurobonds and derivatives within the scope of restrictions for the first time.

Pennington, page 27
Law, page 35

BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS
TODAY

SHRINKING



When the year-long
coal strike began ten
years ago there were
170 British Coal deep
pits. Only 17 remain
open
Page 29

SURGING

The money supply
grew robustly in the
past month and the FT-
SE 100 index surged
Report, page 26
Anthony Harris, 28

FUSING



Alliance Gas and Calor
Gas have signed a £75
million joint natural
gas agreement to
supply business
Page 26

RISING

House of Fraser started
its flotation campaign
with a 44 per cent rise
in pre-tax profits in the
past year
Page 27

OFT to look into warranty sales

By Susan Gilchrist

THE Office of Fair Trading is to investigate the methods used to sell extended warranties on household appliances and electrical goods, it was announced yesterday.

Sir Bryan Carsberg, Director-General of Fair Trading, ordered the investigation after preliminary research revealed wide price variations for extended warranties on the same products and highlighted a lack of information given to consumers about the choice of cover.

"Consumers are often asked to make snap decisions about taking out extended warranties without the benefit of shopping around," Sir Bryan said. "It seems likely that many retailers do not inform their customers of the availability of extended warranties from other sources, including the manufacturer, who may be offering more competitive terms." He also expressed concern that consumers are

not made sufficiently aware of the limitations and exclusions in many extended warranty contracts.

Sir Bryan believes this lack of "transparency" in the market is a key factor in the wide price variations between retailers' warranties and those offered by manufacturers and insurance companies. In some cases, warranties offered by stores can cost up to three times more than those available from manufacturers.

Extended warranties have proved a lucrative source of profit for electrical retailers and have grown substantially in the past five years.

One retail analyst said that the profits of companies such as Dixons and Kingfisher's Comet could be severely eroded if the OFT enquiry were to force greater transparency, and therefore increased competitiveness, in the market.

The outcome of the enquiry is expected this autumn.

Midland Bank profits quadruple to £844m

By Patricia Teshan
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SURGING bond and capital markets and a robust performance in Asia pushed profits at HSBC Holdings, Midland Bank's parent, up 51 per cent last year to £2.58 billion.

HSBC has increased its dividend payout for the year by 24 per cent to 23.5p and is offering an enhanced scrip dividend, alternative worth 24.75p. John Bond, HSBC's chief executive, said the move will reduce the bank's advance corporation tax (ACT) burden by £104 million. He said the bank believes the move was in the best interests of shareholders, but does not envisage offering an enhanced scrip dividend because the ACT provision will be reduced as Midland's profits recover.

Midland's profits, at £844 million, were more than four times higher than the previous year's, despite difficult conditions in UK retail banking and a £163 million increase in bad debt provisions to £670 million. Midland's attributable



Bond: enhanced scrip

profit rose £544 million to £646 million.

In the UK, specific bad debts were down 21 per cent on the previous year, but the fall was offset by higher provisions against bad debts in France, due to falling property values.

Sir Brian Pearce, Midland's chief executive, said the increase in profits was driven by "an exceptional year" for Midland Global Markets, UK commercial banking, including branch banking, corporate

and institutional banking, financial services, global markets and First Direct, increased operating profits by £452 million to £660 million.

The French provisions held back a strong performance in Germany, with Midland breaking even in its overseas commercial banking operations. HSBC's bad debt charge increased from £990 million in 1992 to £1.6 billion. The bank also made a £125 million provision for a legal judgment against Samuel Montagu.

Total attributable profits were £1.8 billion, up from £1.2 billion. Hongkong Bank increased attributable profits by 15 per cent to £1.19 billion.

Marine Midland in the US, increased attributable profits by 59 per cent to £117 million. Hongkong Bank of Canada increased profits by 15 per cent to £32 million. The British Bank of the Middle East saw profits fall by 10 per cent to £61 million. Losses at Concord Leasing worsened from £75 million to £162 million.







Tempos, page 29

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Midday trading figure				BRENT CRUDE	
				 \$13.55 per barrel (Apr)	
				8pm	

LONDON CLOSING PRICES	MARKETS IN DETAIL PAGE 28, SHARE PRICES PAGE 30
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US telephone giant launches \$20bn communications strategy

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

MCI, America's second largest long-distance telephone company, in which British Telecom is buying a 20 per cent stake, has begun building a nationwide personal communications network in the US. It gives subscribers one telephone number for voice and data communication that will travel anywhere.

It is part of a \$20 billion strategy to build alliances with mobile telephone, computer and cable television companies that MCI unveiled last month.

MCI is spending \$1.3 billion on a 17 per cent stake in Nextel Communications,

which started out making radio systems for taxi fleets and now owns the rights to 2,500 broadcast frequencies in 21 states. The deal also forges an alliance with Comcast Corporation, the cable television and cellular telephone operator, which has a 17 per cent stake in Nextel and operates cable and telephone franchises in the UK.

The three claim they will have the potential to reach 95 per cent of the US population.

Bert Roberts, MCI's chairman and chief executive, said: "This alliance means that Nextel is the platform on which we will build an integrated wireless strategy that will be able to reach virtually every

American who wants the service." He estimates that the market will multiply almost sixfold over the next decade, to 90 million people. The Nextel investment will also give the alliance the ability to compete with AT&T, America's largest long-distance company.

AT&T is currently negotiating to buy McCaw Cellular Communications, America's largest mobile telephone company, in a share deal that was originally worth \$12.6 billion but, with the fall in AT&T's price, is now valued at about \$10.8 billion.

Mercury Communications, the telephone company, yesterday won the second round of its battle to change the

way it is charged by BT for local connections to BT customers (writes Ross Tienan, industrial correspondent).

An attempt by BT and Ofel, the telecommunications regulator, to block a legal review of connection terms was rejected by the High Court.

Britain's biggest telephone company and the regulator say they are in agreement that Mercury and other rivals should be obliged to pay BT for the minute for the use of its local network on the same terms as those which are faced by BT's own customers.

Mercury, however, argues that it should be allowed to make a one-off payment to BT to cover the cost of linking

the networks and enjoy free access thereafter.

The company, which is a subsidiary of Cable and Wireless, is seeking to obtain a legal interpretation of the relevant condition of BT's licence in the Commercial Court.

Mike Harris, Mercury's chief executive, said speedy settlement of the issue was important, so that the industry would have a sound basis for investment decisions. According to Mr Harris, the present system forces Mercury to BT's price structure.

"If interconnect charges were set on the basis of actual costs, rather than BT retail prices," he said, "Mercury would be free

to offer customers innovative prices and pricing packages." Ofel said last night that it was reviewing its position and had not decided whether to appeal.

Cable and Wireless has sold Northern Ocean Services, its offshore marine subsidiary, which is a specialist in trenching and sub-sea construction, to McDermott.

Northern Ocean Services was bought by Cable and Wireless in 1988, when the latter was making an effort to diversify, but the company said it was now determined to focus more closely on its core telephony businesses, including Mercury Communications in the United Kingdom.

Calor joins venture to compete in natural gas supply

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

ALLIANCE Gas and Calor Gas have joined forces to offer competitively priced gas to Britain's 100,000 smaller business users. The association, which will challenge British Gas's dominance in the market, could see gas bills of small businesses fall by 15 per cent.

Alliance Gas, a joint venture marketing company between BP, the British oil giant (50 per cent), Norway's Statoil, the state-owned oil and gas group, (40 per cent), and Norsk Hydro (10 per cent), currently supplies 19,000 gas users in Britain.

Calor, best known for its butane, or bottled gas, operates through 1,200 main dealers and some 10,000 stockists. The group supplies an estimated 60,000 domestic customers, 12,500 commercial clients and 4 million users of cylinder gas.

The agreement between the companies is valued at more than £75 million in potential sales, and marks Calor's entry into the deregulated natural-gas market.

Calor said it has engaged Sir James McKinnon, the former director-general of Ofgas, the regulator of the gas industry, to act as adviser to the natural gas executive management.

While the initial focus is small business, the two companies collectively may consider competing in the

domestic market when natural gas becomes totally deregulated in 1996.

The Alliance-Calor arrangement aims to supply competitively priced gas to small business users — defined as those using more than 2,500 therms a year, approximately £1,200 in value.

Howard Robinson, Calor's chief executive, said: "We intend to do everything we have done for the liquefied petroleum gas business for the natural gas business."

Kris Maroe, Alliance's managing director, said the agreement with Calor will help many thousands of small business gas users who have yet to benefit from competition.

North Sea oil production will surge this year, putting more pressure on a weak oil price and threatening to undermine efforts by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to rally support for production cuts.

Crude output is forecast to rise 19 per cent to a record 5.33 million barrels per day (bpd), mainly due to a 30 per cent leap in production in the UK sector, says Wood Mackenzie, the energy consultant.

The new output is coming

from fields such as Scott, which has 540 million barrels in reserves, and Nelson, which will add 150,000 bpd to the oil glut.

UK production is set to rise from 2.3 million bpd at the end of 1993, to some 2.6 million by this December. Crude output from the Norwegian sector is also expected to increase by 9 per cent to 2.59 million bpd. Burgeoning oil production from Britain and Norway was instrumental in the collapse of the oil price to \$13 per barrel at the beginning of the year.

Concern among Opec members over their falling revenues led to calls for restraint by non-Opec producers. But the North Sea is mainly controlled by private sector companies which need the cash flow from production to service their borrowings.

Massive investment by oil exploration companies in the North Sea over the past two years is now showing its effect on the oil market. According to Wood Mackenzie, total capital expenditure in the North Sea reached a peak of £6 billion in 1992 with another £4.7 billion spent last year and a further £4 billion earmarked for the current year.



Tim Legood, chairman of Devon and Cornwall Training and Enterprise Council, at Lands End yesterday, launches a competition to promote exports from the two counties

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

High Court will hear appeal in Gooda action

THE High Court will hear an appeal by the defendants in the forthcoming Gooda Walker names action, which will pose a threat to the April start date of the action group's case. More than 3,000 names are due to take their fight to recover £580 million of losses to court on April 26. They are suing more than 70 members' and managing agents at the Lloyd's of London insurance market. Michael Deeny, chairman of the Gooda Walker Action Group, said: "The commercial court has shown an admirable determination to progress the Lloyd's litigation as rapidly as possible and we are confident that they will continue to do so."

Yesterday's court decision follows an appeal by the members' agents, who are disputing an earlier court decision over whether they owe a contractual duty of care for the conduct of the managing agents. The High Court will also deal with the obligations of members' agents in tort, affecting actions for events that happened years ago.

Morgan-Banesto link

JP MORGAN and Mario Conde, the ousted chairman of the seized Spanish bank Banesto, had an extensive five-year plan and close relationship designed to reward Señor Conde for performance and give the American investment bank a minimum 40 per cent return on its investment. The details have emerged in a letter from Dennis Weatherstone, JP Morgan's chairman, in answer to questions raised by Henry Gonzalez, the US House Banking Committee chairman. Banesto was seized from the brink of collapse by regulators two months ago.

Taylor Woodrow buys

TAYLOR Woodrow, the contractor, is boosting its UK housing land bank with the £30.8 million acquisition of the business and assets of Heron Homes, the housebuilding subsidiary of Heron International. The assets, on 15 sites in the South, South West and Cardiff, include 1,100 plots and 200 homes under construction. Colin Parsons, chairman of Taylor Woodrow, has strengthened the group's housebuilding activity in Florida with some 2,000 plots acquired in the past 18 months. The Heron deal will increase the UK land bank by 50 per cent. *Tempus, page 29*

Woodchester slides

EXCEPTIONAL restructuring costs of Ir£15 million at Woodchester Investments, the Irish financial services company, reduced pre-tax profits to Ir£17.1 million (£16.4 million) in 1993, from Ir£35.4 million. Earnings fell to Ir£25p a share (Ir£15p). A final Ir£3.09p dividend (Ir£2.69p) makes a total of Ir£15.17p (Ir£14.5p). The results had been signalled earlier and Woodchester shares were unchanged at 125p. Woodchester had diversified from its finance house roots towards retail banking. It is now returning to the business it knows best, financing cars and office equipment.

Scottish Power in talks

SCOTTISH Power has confirmed it is in negotiations to buy parts of Clydesdale Group, the electrical retailer forced into receivership. Clydesdale has 135 stores in Scotland and the north of England. Scottish Power already has more than 100 mainly high street stores selling white goods and has stated its intention to expand, in particular south of the border. Last year its retail operations contributed £4.5 million operating profit. Norweb and Dixons are also believed to want certain packages of Clydesdale stores and an offer from management is thought to be under consideration as well.

London Forfeiting up

CONTINUED expansion of its international network helped London Forfeiting Company, the specialist trade finance group, to a 19 per cent increase in pre-tax profits in the year to December 31. Profits rose from £18 million to £21.5 million in spite of a fall in net interest receipts and a rise in administrative expenses. The growth in the company's international network, including opening a Paris office, fed through to higher costs. The final dividend rises to 6.1p (5.5p), making 9.3p for the year (8.4p). Earnings per share rose from 13.75p to 16.15p. *Diary and Tempus, page 29*

Cookson adjusts figures

COOKSON, the industrial materials group that is due to announce its 1993 results on Friday, is changing its accounting policy in anticipation of new reporting requirements. The effect will be a £12.6 million downward adjustment of 1992 profits that were reported at £72.5 million; that will lower 1992 net earnings from 8p to 7.2p a share. The new policy covers post-retirement benefits and stock valuation. Cookson said it was announcing the changed 1992 figures before Friday so the latest results could be judged in perspective. The shares eased 2p, to 267p.

Dixon Motors soars

DIXON Motors, the motor dealer which came to the USM last May via a reverse takeover of Plateau Mining, reported a trebling of pre-tax profits on a pro forma basis from £370,000 to £1.3 million for the year to December 31. Turnover rose from £46.2 million to £64.1 million as a result of the addition of 3 franchises, including Toyota and Seat, and 3 dealerships during the year. The group now operates 15 franchises and 12 dealerships and plans further expansion. A final dividend of 1.5p brings the total for the year to 2.25p, in line with forecasts.

Kleinwort Benson

Kleinwort Benson Private Bank is pleased to announce that with effect from 1st March 1994 the Mortgage Management Account interest rate will reduce to 7.25% per annum.

Kleinwort Benson Private Bank is a Division of Kleinwort Benson Investment Management Limited

Hilton books into Slovenia

BY NEIL BENNETT

LADBROKE, the hotels and betting group, is to invest in a large luxury hotel in Slovenia, the new republic in the north of former Yugoslavia. Hilton International, the group's hotels subsidiary, has joined forces with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and a consortium of Austrian banks to back the \$45 million project. They are planning a five-star, 260-bedroom hotel in Ljubljana, Slovenia's capital. It will be the city's first five-star hotel and is expected to open in the summer of 1996. The hotel will be sited next to the country's new world trade centre in the capital's growing business district.

Hilton International is planning to buy a \$2 million equity stake in the project and take on the management contract. The EBRD will also take a \$2 million equity stake and inject up to \$14 million in debt. Slovenia has been largely untouched by violence since independence in 1991 and has been building a market economy in peace. Last year, German companies invested DM1 billion in the country — more than in the whole of Russia — but until now British interest has been minimal.

Money supply grows

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

MONEY supply figures from the Bank of England gave no indication that consumers are starting to lose their nerve, in spite of concern that the forthcoming tax increase will brake the economic recovery.

The London stock market strengthened in response and the FT-SE 100 index closed up 46.9 points at 3,328.1.

Provisional data for February showed that M0, the narrow money supply measure, grew more robustly than the City had expected, suggesting that recovery has become well established.

Almost entirely made up of banknotes and coins in circulation, M0 is regarded as a valuable guide to the strength of retail spending. In February, it rose 0.9 per cent, after seasonal adjustment, to stand 5.5 per cent above the same month last year, up from 5.3 per cent annual growth in January.

The Bundesbank, preparing for the reduction today in the amount of funds banks have to hold with it, said it would offer money market funds at variable interest rates, abandoning the 6 per cent fixed rate at which it has supplied the market since early December.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

BILLAM (J) (Fin)
Pre-tax: £385,000
EPS: 16p (20.1p)
Div: 3.1p, mkg 5.3p

CANTAB PHARMACEUTICALS
Pre-tax: £2.88m loss
EPS: 42p loss (28p loss)
Div: Nil (nil)

CORPORATE SERVS (Fin)
Pre-tax: £277,000
EPS: 2.73p (5.04p loss)
Div: 0.25p, mkg 0.25p

HIGH-POINT (Int)
Pre-tax: £93,000
EPS: 0.8p (3.1p)
Div: Nil (nil)

IND CONTROL SERV
Pre-tax: £2.62m (£2.37m)
EPS: 2.91p (3.82p)
Div: 1.5p (1.33p)

SWP GROUP (Int)
Pre-tax: £105,000
EPS: 0.3p (0.1p)
Div: Nil (nil)

Profit in previous year was £479,000 and the total dividend was 5p. Downturn blamed on recession in aerospace industry.

Final results. Previous loss was £1.4 million. Biotechnology group floated on stock market in October. Revenues were £1 million.

Loss in previous year was £1.55 million before tax and the dividend was passed. Turnover rose to £42 million from £31.25 million.

Previous interim profit was £166,000. Board hopes for final dividend. Interest charge cut to £588,000 from £1.03 million.

Interim results. Turnover rose to £39.9 million from £30 million. Costs of £536,000 charged against closure in Scotland.

Previous interim profits were £42,000. Turnover was £4.4 million, up from £3.7 million. Decline in workload has come to an end.

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□ No more advice from Roger Levitt □ European markets rebound □ House of Fraser customers targeted

SIB does community a service

THE Securities and Investments Board is no longer the watchdog that did not bark. It has, almost six years after the Financial Services Act came into force, made its first barking order. Pause for applause.

Roger Levitt, the dapper financial adviser who left Southwark Crown Court with 180 hours community service and has already celebrated his discharge from bankruptcy, appeared to be far less scathed by the failure of his company than his investors.

Many — presumably including Andrew Large — felt the Serious Fraud Office had mishandled his trial, allowing him to plead guilty to a lesser charge of misleading the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association during the death throes of his investment group, which went down owing £34 million.

"Who cares whether he misled a regulator," went up the cry. "Aren't the SFO and SIB supposed to be protecting investors?" Now, we might suppose that SIB is. It has taken it a long time to making a barking order under Section 59 of the act. But Levitt is a worthy subject to go down in history as the first person to be banned for life from selling investments and he at last appears to accept his unfitness to sell bonds and other financial products to widows, orphans

and thriller writers. He decided not to take the SIB through a lengthy and expensive appeals procedure. His prosecution cost taxpayers more than £3 million and he could have chosen to have added to this burden.

If banning orders are to be used by SIB for those who appear to have got away lightly, there are other candidates in the wings. Robert Miller was released from prison last March after serving just 21 months of a six-year sentence for fraud and theft. Peter Clowes is also said to be counting the days until his early release from his ten-year sentence because he is an exemplary prisoner.

We should not have to wait another six years for the next banning order. Others are likely to follow swiftly as SIB has issued notices to a number of other people who it feels need banning if investors are to sleep soundly. They each have 30 days to appeal and should they decide to do so it would be the summer before the tribunal procedure had been exhausted.

While the bans are open-ended and are intended to prevent an

investment comeback by an old rogue when memories of felonies are fading, Levitt and whoever follows after him will be able to apply to SIB to be reinstated. We must hope that having deliberated so long over making its first ban it will not be lifted lightly, if ever.

Levitt, disqualified from being a director for seven years, will find that once he has stopped helping to make wooden toys for disadvantaged children, options will still be open for him to make a living. He can sell double glazing or water filters if he wants to make a useful contribution to society.

Smiling with that ring of confidence

YESTERDAY'S rebound in Europe's stock and bond markets probably had everything to do with weekend reflection that prices looked relatively cheap and virtually nothing to do with the weekend meeting of big seven finance ministers, or even the hint that the Bundesbank might be preparing for another

PENNINGTON



cut in its repo rate. That is as well. While ministers were anxiously trying to talk the markets back up, they did little to back this up.

True, there was an unusual degree of mutual back-slapping, optimism aimed at a wider audience. By far the most concrete aid to confidence, however, were the widespread claims that inflation was so firmly under control that it could safely be pushed off the policy agenda if that were a respectable thing to do. And lo, Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, predictably broke ranks almost as soon as his colleagues had left. Recession had not banished the spectre of inflation in Germany, he intoned, and money supply

growth was still a worry for the Bundesbank council.

No such doubts in Britain. The growth of cash is again accelerating. Further expansion of M0 in February has left annualised growth at about 7 per cent over the latest six months, against a monitoring range of 0-4 per cent. This is explained as an entirely predictable response to falling interest rates, something the Chancellor unfortunately failed to predict when he set the monitoring range. Still, even the worst negative thinker would be hard put to make much of that, especially if asset prices are subdued. Rather, healthy money growth is seen as a sign of a healthy economy.

That contrast is not so strange. With little ammunition left in the monetary locker — as the markets' perverse reaction to the last quarter point cut in base rates showed — the priority for Chancellor and Governor is to talk the economy up. Herr Tietmeyer can afford to be more cautious because he expects to make significant further cuts in interest rates later this year. No wonder the British and Ameri-

cans are more anxious about market shakeouts. In reality, the adjustment of asset prices to the turn in American interest rates has not been any more than could reasonably have been predicted at the start.

Indeed, governments might usefully reflect that the main aggravation to any market anxiety has been America talking a trade war with Japan, on somewhat spurious grounds — a needless confidence killer if ever there was one.

No bargains in store

THE average Dickens & Jones or Army & Navy customer, if not quite an Aunt Agatha, is still a good bit older than the leggy lovelies gracing the TV ads. Not surprisingly, the House of Fraser has identified this worthy breed of investor as ideal for the high-profile flotation. As a result, more than £1 million is going on advertising, while the offer is also being pushed to the group's chargecard holders.

But while firm numbers are

not yet available, there is already some doubt whether customers will get a bargain. The value of the business has accelerated from the £280 million a level-headed management buyout consortium placed on it a year ago to the £450 million or £500 million of the float, with no concomitant improvement in trading. The market has been keen to identify the next retail recovery stock — too keen, in the case of those investors who piled into Burton — and HoF is being marketed as such.

There is clearly scope for improvement and the double-digit earnings growth investors will be looking for to justify the probable historic earnings multiple of 18 the group will be floated at. The Fayed's main interest was clearly on Harrods which they are retaining — to the detriment of the rest, a business probably well behind competitors such as Debenhams and with a more affluent customer base.

They are being forced to sell because of debt, which ought to be to the investor's advantage. But they bought the whole shooting match, Harrods and all, for £600 million in 1985. If they raise half a billion without the flagship, this hardly suggests values within the business have fallen much during a severe retail recession.

House of Fraser profit soars on eve of flotation

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

HOUSE of Fraser, the department stores group owned until now by the Fayed brothers, made an encouraging start to its pre-flotation campaign by reporting a 44 per cent rise in profits.

The pathfinder prospectus published yesterday, ahead of next month's flotation, showed that pre-tax profits for the year to January 31 increased from £23.9 million to £34.5 million. Profits at the operating level were up from £36.1 million to £45 million — well ahead of analysts' expectations. Turnover rose from £994.2 million to £721.7 million, with like-for-like sales in existing stores 8.6 per cent up after a strong Christmas and winter sales period.

The group, which operates 56 stores, including such well-known brand names as Dickens & Jones, Army & Navy and Dingles, said it would have recommended a 5p dividend for the year, on earnings per share before exceptional items of 11.1p.

Andrew Jennings, House of Fraser's managing director, said the product mix in the stores had been reorganised to match merchandise more closely with stores' sizes and the customer profiles of local catchment areas. More selling space has been allocated to higher-margin product categories, such as womenswear, menswear and fashion accessories, at the expense of electricals and furniture.

Costs have been strictly controlled. The number of full-time employees has been cut by a quarter to 10,000 over the past two years. The proportion of part-time employees has increased from 40 per cent to 56 per cent.

The property portfolio has a net book value of £266 million and 85 per cent of the selling space is held freehold or on long leases. The group plans to spend £30 million a year refurbishing all its outlets and also aims to acquire new sites from private department store operators. The prospectus re-



Brian McGowan has received a fee on top of his salary

veals that Brian McGowan, who was tempted back from early retirement to become House of Fraser's chairman, received a fee from Harrods Investments, the parent company, for his role in the flotation. This is a one-off payment on top of his £150,000 a year salary.

Mr McGowan refused to disclose the size of the fee but sources close to the company dismissed reports in the weekend press that the total pack-

age was worth £14 million. Mr Jennings receives a salary of £245,000.

Harrods Investments is selling its entire stake of 23.6 million ordinary shares and expects to raise between £450 million and £500 million, putting the new company on an historic price/earnings ratio of about 18. Most of the shares will be placed with institutions but about a quarter will be available to the public.

Records chief rejects links

By MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

POLYGRAM, the record and film group, is in no hurry to join the multimedia conglomerates, Alain Levy, president and chief executive, said. The current cult of multimedia is "covering vastly different businesses which have little in common at present," he said.

The company, 75 per cent owned by the Philips electronics group of The Netherlands, was announcing 1993 results showing a 19 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to 927 million guilders (£324 million) on a 12 per cent rise in sales, with little help from currency factors.

Mr Levy said while he accepted the logic behind telecoms groups wanting to hook up with producers of software such as PolyGram, which has a growing film division, he was "dubious" at the need for software businesses to make alliances with telecoms businesses, if the former's programming was good enough. At the heart of PolyGram's performance in 1993 was an improvement from the pop music side, which since September has included the black American Motown label and accounted last year for 69 per cent of all revenue. Sales of pop music were up by 13 per cent, helped by a total of 30 albums that sold more than a million copies each, as against a flat performance in 1992.

The film production business accounts for 9 per cent of 1993 sales and would be expanded slowly, said Mr Levy. A total of 13 films were released, and another 12 went into production during the year. PolyGram is paying a total dividend of £1 0.75, a rise of 22 per cent on its 1992 total.

Airtours sues ex-Aspro owners for nearly £10m

By MARTIN FLANAGAN

AIRTOURS, the acquisitive holiday tour operator, has launched a legal action against the former owners of Aspro, a company it bought for £20 million last June.

The estimated £9.8 million claim, which surprised the market, triggered a 13p fall in Airtours' shares to 540p.

The group has started proceedings against George Christopher and Dimitrios Aspro, former owners of 90 per cent of Aspro Travel, for alleged fraudulent misrepresentation of the trading position of Aspro and Inter European Airways, its subsidiary.

Aspro specialises in holi-

days in the eastern Mediterranean. In addition, Airtours, the second-biggest holidays operator in Britain after Thomson, is claiming against all the former shareholders in Aspro under warranties and representations in the purchase agreement.

The Aspro deal came just months after Airtours' controversial failed £290 million takeover bid for Owners Abroad, the third-biggest player in the United Kingdom. Over the past two years Airtours has also bought the Pickfords and Hogg Robinson travel agencies.

Airtours said yesterday its accounts for the year to Sep-

tember 30, 1993, when pre-tax profits rose 25 per cent to £45.5 million, reflected the shortfall against profits expected previously from Aspro. This year's earnings would not, therefore, be affected, the company added.

Aspro and IEA were now trading in line with budget, it said, with bookings well ahead of the previous year. Airtours said Aspro and IEA had been fully integrated, with a significant reduction in the cost base. It said that despite the legal claim, the strategic aim of the acquisition, to consolidate the Airtours position in the eastern Mediterranean, had been realised.

Midland & Scottish loses £18m

AN Italian oil-production platform holds the key to the future of Midland & Scottish Resources, the oil company which in 1992 wrote off its entire £97 million investment in the North Sea Emerald field (Carl Mortished writes).

Midland chalked up a pre-tax loss of £18 million for the six months to June 30 and after the failure of new wells in Emerald, is depending on a successful deployment of The Spirit of Columbus to repay £160 million to its bankers.

Jon Hawkesley, managing director, reckons a contract can be closed within the year on the platform and hopes to secure a contract in the UK or Norwegian North Sea or in Canada to underpin the group's cash flow.

HSBC Holdings plc Results for 1993



For the year	1993	1992
Profit before tax	£2,584m	£1,714m
Profit attributable to shareholders	£1,806m	£1,221m
Earnings per share	71.78p	62.07p
Dividends per share	23.50p	19.00p
Shareholders' funds	£9,334m	£8,011m
Capital resources	£16,087m	£13,465m
Assets	£206,050m	£185,141m

"Overall, business conditions were favourable for the HSBC Group in a year marked by growth and change, including the move of our holding company to London. The hard work and dedication of our staff throughout the world was a vital element of our success."

Steady progress has been made in the integration of Midland Bank into the Group. While much remains to be achieved, the benefits realised so far have exceeded our expectations, particularly in the treasury, investment and UK commercial banking businesses.

As we look ahead, we expect our business to benefit from continued growth in Asian economies and recovery in the UK and US. However, with interest rates at or near the bottom of the cycle, it is unlikely that conditions in the treasury and capital markets in 1994 will be as favourable as those in 1993.

With our broad geographical presence and our expertise in trade finance, the HSBC Group is well positioned to benefit from the growth in world trade which should result from the GATT and NAFTA agreements. We look forward with confidence to these new challenges and the opportunities they present."

William Purves, Group Chairman

The information in this announcement does not constitute statutory accounts within the meaning of section 240 of the Companies Act 1985. The statutory accounts for the year ended 31 December 1993, which contain an unqualified auditor's report and do not contain a statement under section 237(2) or (3) of the Act, will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies in England and Wales in accordance with section 242 of the Act.

Copies of the full results announcement may be obtained from Group Public Affairs, 10 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6AE, United Kingdom. The 1993 Annual Report and Accounts will be sent to shareholders in early April.

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Sema sold a 25 per cent stake in its facilities management business to France Telecom in 1993. This year, Sema hopes the planned cooperation with France Telecom will bear fruit, particularly a joint venture in telecommunications software in France.

An increased final dividend of 1.9p (7.7p), gives an improved total payout of 3.1p (28p) for the year. Earnings fell to 25.14p (30.18p) a share, though adjusted earnings were ahead 25.7 per cent to

Sema bucks recession with 28% rise

By PHILIP PANGALOS

SEMA Group, the Anglo-French information systems company, bucked the recessionary conditions gripping much of continental Europe with a solid 28.7 per cent advance in full-year profits before one-off gains.

Profits before tax and gains on disposals climbed to £24.9 million (£19.5 million) in the

year to December 31. Gains on disposals amounted to £11.3 million (£0.8 million), resulting in reduced pre-tax profits of £36.1 million (£40.3 million). Sales advanced 20.5 per cent to £502 million, with the most substantial turnover growth coming from the United Kingdom, Germany and France.

Pierre Bonelli, Sema's chief

executive, said the improvement in profitability was mainly based on continued concentration on key business areas, systems integration and facilities management, and on market sectors such as energy, defence, transport and banking, where Sema has established a sound reputation for management of complex projects.

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16.62p (13.22p) a share. Net cash stood at £18.2 million at the year-end.

One-off disposal gains helped Pegasus Group, the USM-quoted software group, report a surge in pre-tax profits to £6.93 million in the year to December 31, compared with £620,000 in the previous 17-month period. Profits were boosted by an exceptional gain of £6.15 million, mainly relating to the sale of the remaining 75 per cent stake in the company's forms business.

Turnover, affected by discontinued activities, fell to £7.5 million (£10.3 million). The disposal of the forms business has left the group with about £8 million of cash.

Basic earnings surged to 76.1p a share, compared with 7.7p, with fully diluted earnings at 72.0p (7.3p). There is a final dividend of 3p, making 5p, compared with 5p.



Police and miners in violent confrontation on picket lines became an all too familiar sight during the year-long miners' strike

King Coal's striking legacy has still to be fulfilled

The failure of the year-long miners' strike, launched a decade ago this month, marked a sea-change in industry, Ross Tieman writes

The conflict was medieval. Outside collieries, policemen with horses, shields and batons fought pitched battles against aggrieved miners. Flying pickets evaded roadblocks only to be chased across suburban lawns by Kentish bobbies more accustomed to village vandals and lager louts. And miners' wives swapped their aprons for banners and collection buckets, which they took to town centres across the country.

It was very, very hard to be indifferent. Few were. The spectacle of Sir Ian MacGregor, the British Coal chairman, emerging from a supposedly secret meeting with a brown paper bag over his head was farce of the highest order. Meantime, Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader, made an unlikely appearance on Michael Parkinson's chat show to warn a wider public that there was a list of pits for closure.

Mr Scargill was, of course, right. When the strike began, on March 12, British Coal had 170 deep mines in operation. Today, there are 17. The reality, as the president of the National Union of Mineworkers correctly perceived, was that defeat of the miners was a strategic objective for a government determined to achieve fundamental social change.

In confronting the miners, Mrs Thatcher and her Cabinet were seeking to turn the clock back to an era when economic performance and competitiveness were the determinant of industrial survival. They won the battle, yet the change they initiated was so far-reaching that almost a decade later it remains to be completed.

The coal problem had been building up for years. It was precisely because the industry failed sufficiently to adapt to its changing circumstances for so long that the past decade has seen such dramatic and painful contraction.

Nationalisation of Britain's mines, in 1947, was partly a response to the problems of contraction. Output immediately after the war was 200 million tonnes a year: a massive volume, but already down by a third on production at the end of First World War.

By the 1960s, when Harold Macmillan told Britons they'd "never had it so good", coal-burning steam engines in ships and on the railways were being supplanted by diesel motors and the spread of private cars. As the decade wore on, natural gas replaced coal fires

for heating in the homes. And in manufacturing, smoke-stack industries were increasingly supplanted by lighter, consumer-oriented production.

As a result, total coal consumption declined, and the industry became increasingly dependent for its sales upon electricity generation. Government policy decreed that the state-owned power industry would provide a market for the state-owned coal industry and the threat of industrial action ensured that both were hugely over-expensive and over-manned.

As the 1970s gave way to the 1980s, the drag on Britain's economy of such policies was made all the more apparent by the greater pace of economic growth in continental Europe and the Far East. The decision by Mrs Thatcher and her Government to face down the miners was part of a wider ambition to remove perceived barriers to progress and accelerate change.

Deep mine coal production had already shrunk to little more than 100 million tonnes a year when the strike began. But, even at that level, output had exceeded demand and although the confrontation began at the end of the winter period of peak consumption, stocks at power stations were high.

Even in the year of the strike, British Coal managed to produce 27.6 million tonnes of coal from its collieries, nearly a third of its deep mine output in the previous year. The level of stocks, increased output from nuclear plants, and Mr Scargill's failure to secure the backing of the less militant Nottinghamshire miners enabled the Government to starve the miners back to work.

British Coal ended the strike in March 1985 with 169 collieries, one fewer than at the start. But even though 20,000 miners had quit the industry for good rather than stay on the picket lines, there were still 171,000 miners working underground.

The figures in British Coal's annual reports show what happened subsequently. Before the strike, output per man/shift averaged 1.82 tonnes. In 1986-87, the first full year after the

strike, the number of miners fell by a further 32,500, output recovered to 88.4 million tonnes, almost exactly its pre-strike level, and productivity rose by half to 2.72 tonnes per man/shift.

The programme of closures since the strike has averaged about 25 mines a year. But the pace of change remained inadequate while the power generation industry remained in public hands. When electricity privatisation began in 1990, the Government was obliged to feather British Coal with three-year contracts to supply the main generators. It was the looming expiry of those contracts that spurred British Coal, with Government approval, to announce plans in October 1992 to close 31 pits and shed 30,000 among its remaining 50,000 underground workforce.

Those closures, and more, have now been completed. But only in the past two years have productivity improve-



Ellington's closure has left 17 pits

ments on a scale needed to ensure the survival of a slimmed-down coal industry been achieved. In the past 24 months, the Corporation has lifted output per man shift from 5.31 tonnes to 12 tonnes. British Coal's mines — those 17 that remain — are now within reach of being able to compete, profitably, with mines in Eastern Europe, Australia, Colombia and elsewhere.

But supply is only half the equation. Demand from Britain's generators for coal has been reduced by further increases in output from atomic plants, and construction of high-efficiency power stations burning natural gas.

Privatisation will be the absolute test of Britain's coal industry to survive in a commercial environment. The omens, to date, are better than many would have surmised. Private operators are already on course to re-open half a dozen former British Coal mines. When bids are invited for the rest of the industry this year, there will be no shortage of interest from potential mine operators.

And what of the mining unions, the once-mighty NUM and the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers? With only 11,000 miners still underground, they have already shrunk to a size where many within the trade union movement question their ability to survive independently. A merger of the NUM with the Transport and General Workers' Union, which already represents opencast workers, seems likely.

But in a small, highly efficient, modern industry, a different style of industrial relations will inevitably emerge. The UDM has combined with Jim Walker Resources, an American mining group, and others to prepare a consortium bid for at least some of the remaining British Coal pits. NUM members are also likely to be involved in management buyouts.

To reminisce now about the miners' strike is to recall an era of mass confrontation, of ideology and of organised labour that seems almost incomprehensible in the context of today's Britain. But it is also to recall an era when governments and their agents decided industrial strategy behind closed doors, and the taxpayer carried the cost. The consequences of some of those decisions, in terms of ill-chosen power stations and excessive electricity prices, are only now being unwound.

TEMPUS

The mystic East

HSBC was reluctantly compelled to reveal its inner reserves when it bought Midland two years ago, but it remains wedded to the dubious virtues of financial secrecy. The group's £2.6 billion profit may be as large as the other three main banks together but it is difficult to feel confident about the quality of earnings since it is impossible to discern how much was made from the exceptional trading conditions in the capital markets last year.

The figure is certainly high. Dealing profits, before expenses, of £1.09 billion were up 75 per cent on 1992 and made up almost a third of the group's non-interest income. The 314 per cent rise in Midland Bank's profits, despite the 32 per cent rise in bad debt provisions, is another sure indicator of the scale of the contribution from Midland Global Markets. Considering the trouble HSBC has taken to split the profits from merchant banking, securities and asset management away from commercial banking, surely it could do the same for currency

and fixed interest trading. But despite investors' legitimate interest in the source of profits, the bank is keeping mum. This forces the investor to take the bank on trust, and, on past performance, HSBC may believe it is entitled to that. Last year, it earned 21 per cent on capital despite having a risk/asset ratio of 7.9 per cent, almost double the regulatory minimum. Its control of costs and credit quality have been phenomenal and the result is a 24 per cent rise in the dividend, with an enhanced scrip as a tax-efficient kicker.

But doubts about earnings quality remain. The scale of dealing profits looks unrepeatable and if HSBC was running long positions before the tumble in bond prices, it is now nursing losses. Bad debt provisions on lending in South East Asia are an unsustainably low 0.25 per cent of lending and will rise if the region's economic growth falters. The dividend yield on the shares is only 3.1 per cent, so there are cheaper and more informative banks nearer home.

London

Forfeiting

ANOTHER financial institution that wants to be taken on trust is London Forfeiting. The company, which arranges fixed rate trade finance and then sells bills on to commercial banks, is a beneficiary of falling rates. But the firm is coy about the benefit and points out it is offset by the lower interest it earns on its cash assets.

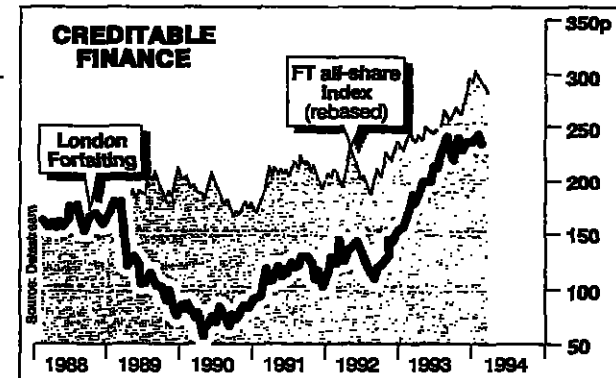
London Forfeiting's exposure to rate fluctuations is not great. Its small asset book, less than twice the size of capital, prevents it being squeezed by a rate mismatch and also helps prevent a surge in bad debts since most of its loans are sold on without recourse. But such shyness makes the market nervous when it believes it is sitting at the bottom of an

interest cycle. At the end of the year, London Forfeiting also had a £15 million portfolio of developing country Eurobonds and recent weeks have not been a happy time to hold fixed interest paper.

The group's international expansion continues, particularly in the US, and operations are now spreading into Latin America. Britain now

accounts for only 20 per cent of income, ensuring that the group is no longer tied to the fortunes of the domestic economy, as it was at the beginning of the recession.

But the City expects a flat performance from the group this year, leaving the shares looking fully valued on 14 times earnings despite the attractions of a 5.1 per cent yield.



Taylor Woodrow

ONLY six months ago Taylor Woodrow watchers were pencilling in yet another £15 million provision against the group's £500 million property portfolio. But cycles are working nicely in the company's favour in the UK and the group has been able to dispose of properties on harder yields, leaving a good chance that the year-end valuation of the property portfolio will show an upwards rather than downwards shift.

A stronger asset base leaves the company with room to expand its housing building side; over the last two years the group has been cherry-picking land assets from distressed sellers. It picked up 2,000 plots from smart deals in the US and in Australia a residential joint venture with Fairfax is expected to generate A\$1 billion (648 million) revenues in the next ten years. Yesterday's

deal with Heron completes the picture by putting it into a bigger league with coverage throughout the UK.

Housing has the added attraction of being able to boost short-term profits at a time when contracting margins are thin and work still scarce. Housebuilding profits are thought to have contributed £9 million to a pre-tax figure of £24 million in 1993 which at the current 174p leaves the shares looking expensive. But the rationale for buying them is the asset backing from the property portfolio which could amount to £24p, leaving housing and any recovery in contracting as icing on the cake.

Oil

ONCE again, the North Sea looks set to spoil the sleep of oil ministers in the Arabian Gulf. The weakened financial health of more than a few Opec countries is closely

linked to the economic rent from oil production and last year that income slumped as the average price fell from more than \$19 to \$17 per barrel. By putting a lid on rivalries and political tension between Iran and Saudi Arabia, Opec managed to agree to keep production level at about 24.5 million bpd but a jump of 500,000 bpd from the North Sea, chiefly Norway, has been enough to cut the price to \$13.

At the end of this month Opec ministers meet again and they will be facing the prospect of another rise in North Sea output. Private North Sea oil companies have their own financial problems and need to pump out more oil to raise the cash to keep bankers and shareholders happy. To send prices upwards, Opec needs to make a big cut in its quotas: chipping away at the margins will only sacrifice market share.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

'Dirty tricks' row under scrutiny

HO HUM. A year after the celebrated "dirty tricks" row between British Airways and Virgin Atlantic ended in a humiliating defeat for BA, the whole messy affair is about to flare up again. The "inside" story about the affair is revealed "for the first time" in a book on the saga titled — what else? — *Dirty Tricks*. Martyn Gregory, a freelance television producer, claims to have penned the definitive account of the behind-the-scenes battle that left Virgin with £610,000 in libel damages and a High Court apology. Gregory, we learn, was given "exclusive access to the personal diary in which Richard Branson recorded every detail of the dirty tricks campaign", and exclusive interviews with British Airways executives and private detectives who reveal how BA plotted against Virgin. There is even an exclusive interview with Brian Basham, the public relations consultant accused by Branson of masterminding the smear campaign. Next in the series will probably be an "inside" tale on Branson's bid to run the National Lottery.

Team worries

FRESH challenges for Andy Ripley, the former England No 8 last seen trekking through the Channel tunnel in a mass charity walk three weeks ago. Ripley, 46, who knows his way round the City, thanks to spells with Citibank and United Bank of Kuwait among others, has been made a director of London Forfeiting Company, a trade finance specialist. He hopes to use his banking sources to good effect, more pressing matters aside. "I'm very concerned about the changes to the England team for the game against France."

he muses. "To make five changes in mid-course? I don't know whether that's a good thing or not."

Security lapse

SSSSSH! You never know who's listening... ESKAN Electronics, a London-based maker and supplier of electronic security equipment — bugs, to you and me — has been enjoying a boom in demand for products ranging from small recording and video devices inserted into pens, calculators, pepper pots and briefcases, to hand-held sweeping devices. But calling

in ESKAN to sweep for bugs has its dangers, as one public company on the receiving end of a takeover bid was to discover. Fears that someone was listening in were borne out when a bug was found in the boardroom. On ESKAN's advice, the device was left in place and disinformation was used to discover the perpetrator. However, it was also discovered that the chairman's wife had, for seven years, been having an affair with one of the security guards while the chairman was out playing golf.

Flair for timing

THE weekend's fatal cinema blaze met with a shocked reaction in the world of financial public relations, with no less than three City PR companies based in the area around Smithfield meat market. Notable among them is Ogilvy Adams & Rinehart, which, until this weekend, occupied the building next door to the fire site. "No one had any idea," says one insider. "It was an unmarked door. We just assumed the building was deserted." Showing a flair for timing, the firm has decamped to new offices on Chancery Lane. Lansons Communica-

tions, meanwhile, is a little further up St John Street, and journalists know the area quite well — thanks to Ludgegate Communications, which had about 300 hacks round for an almighty booze-up last month.

US challenge

BRITAIN'S top companies will compete against an American corporate team for the first time when the 1994 T&N Industry Sailing Challenge unfolds at Cowes at the end of June. A team from AE Clevite, a maker of engine parts based near Detroit, is flying in to take on SG Warburg, National Power and others in what is hailed as the United Kingdom's premier inter-business yacht racing event. More than 70 boats are expected to take part in the series of 120-mile non-stop races round the Isle of Wight. The top two boats from each of the qualifying rounds go through to the final on July 23-24.

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The Varnished Truth

When candidates visit a recruitment consultant for the first time they bring their career hopes and expectations with them - sometimes nervously, wondering whether they have set their sights too high; sometimes confidently, but with an optimism that overshoots reality. The consultant faces a delicate task: to make an accurate assessment of the candidate's position in the job-market, and to explain - honestly - how they stand. This can be difficult. There is always the temptation to tell candidates what they wish to hear. An honest assessment may be unwelcome, and candidates can so easily transfer their job-search to another recruitment agency.

There is an analogy here with estate agents when you ask them to sell your house. Experienced agents know exactly what the house will fetch, but they also know that you hope to get more. If they give you the true figure, another agent will give a higher one and they will lose the commission. They have learnt from bitter experience, therefore, to over-value your house by 5% or 10%, take it onto their books exclusively, and gradually ease the price down to its true level until the house is sold.

There is no advantage to candidates to be given misleading advice about their prospects. Vain hopes are raised, only to be disappointed when the promised interviews fail to materialise. Ambitions founded on reality, however, are stronger and more durable. The recruitment consultant can go all out for them, knowing they have a real chance of success.

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LAW

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A step forward for justice for disabled people

Unfashionable it may be, but the chance to remove discrimination against the physically and mentally handicapped should be seized by MPs



COUNSEL
DAVID PANNICK QC

In ten days' time, on March 11, the House of Commons will consider whether to give a second reading to the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill. This Private Member's Bill, promoted by Dr Roger Berry, the Labour member for Kingswood, seeks to prohibit discrimination against the disabled in the contexts of employment and the provision of goods, facilities and services. The Bill asserts a fundamental principle of social justice which deserves support.

At present, English law makes it unlawful for employers and others to discriminate on the grounds of a person's sex, marital status, colour, race, nationality or ethnic or national origins. Parliament has ruled that, subject to defined exceptions, such treatment serves no proper purpose, and is a serious cause of injustice, as well as a waste of human resources. The Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill seeks to apply similar reasoning in the context of the handicapped.

Although the drafting of the Bill would

benefit from improvements, the basic principle which it seeks to apply is that employers and others should not be permitted to treat the disabled less favourably than others on the ground of their disability except where it is reasonable to do so.

The physically and mentally handicapped are, by reason of their impairment, obviously less well equipped to compete for some of the benefits offered by society. Limited compensation is provided by a variety of State grants and allowances, and by private charity. But what causes particular concern, and anger, among the disabled, is that their opportunity to obtain a fair share of society's resources, and their chance to make a worthwhile contribution to meeting the needs of society, are often diminished not by their own handicaps but by the negative attitudes of the rest of the community.

The disabled are refused employment and services that they are, on their merits, well qualified to obtain or use, or

would be if employers and others were to take minor steps to accommodate them. Often, their rejection occurs because of erroneous assumptions about the scope or effect of their disability, or because of prejudice or embarrassment.

The handicapped do not demand that jobs be provided because they are disabled. Rather, they object to less favourable treatment on the ground of their handicap when that disability does

not, or should not, prevent them from performing the job on offer.

The Government does not dispute that unreasonable and unjustified treatment of the disabled is commonplace. But ministers do not accept that legislation is the appropriate response to the problem. They refuse to recognise that the arguments in favour of law reform are overwhelming. Dr Berry's Bill would, like other anti-discrimination laws, pro-

vide a much-needed educative statement of public policy.

It is highly unlikely that unreasonable discrimination will be reduced in this context without the intervention of the law. The limited expense to employers and others would be passed on to consumers as a minute fraction of what more fortunate members of the community pay for relevant goods and services.

In any event, assisting the disabled to take their rightful place as skilled employees and as users of services would have economic advantages.

The disabled themselves have no doubt that legislation would be of enormous assistance in furthering one of the most important civil rights: autonomy. Britain is well behind Canada, Australia and the United States, where legislation to prohibit unreasonable discrimination has proved to be an effective mechanism to assist the disabled.

Of course, hard cases would arise if Dr Berry's Bill were to become law. It defines "disability" to mean "a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities". Difficult problems may be posed by what an article in the *Harvard Law Review* has described as "facial discrimination"; that is, less favourable treatment

by employers on the basis of the physical appearance of job applicants.

It is unclear how the English courts would resolve the case successfully brought by Bonnie Cook in Rhode Island. Last November, the United States Court of Appeals held that it was unlawful handicap discrimination for the State to refuse to employ Mrs Cook in a State hospital because she weighs 23 stone. The court rejected the argument that obesity is self-inflicted, and so is not a disability.

Some of the Bill's opponents will seek to laugh it out of Parliament. A few may imitate the appalling prejudice of Alan Clark, the under-secretary of state at the Department of Employment in 1983, who confided to his diary, published last year: "Another conference, another tour. Here the buzz theme was 'the Disabled'. But why? It's the able I want to get back into work."

At a time when the reputation of Parliament has room for improvement, MPs should consider voting for a Bill for a powerful, if politically unfashionable, reason: because justice so demands.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

Taking contempt too much to heart

Should contempt of court merit a prison sentence, asks Patrick Stevens

David Irving, the revisionist historian, was released from Pentonville jail last week after serving ten days of a three-month sentence for contempt of court. Ordering Mr Irving's release, Mr Justice Mitchell said he hoped the historian had "learnt his lesson from this, however unpleasant it may be".

The case is the latest example of judges' wide-ranging powers to jail people for contempt. Muggers may be sent on safari; fraudsters such as Roger Levitt may do community service but two beside any guilty of contempt of court.

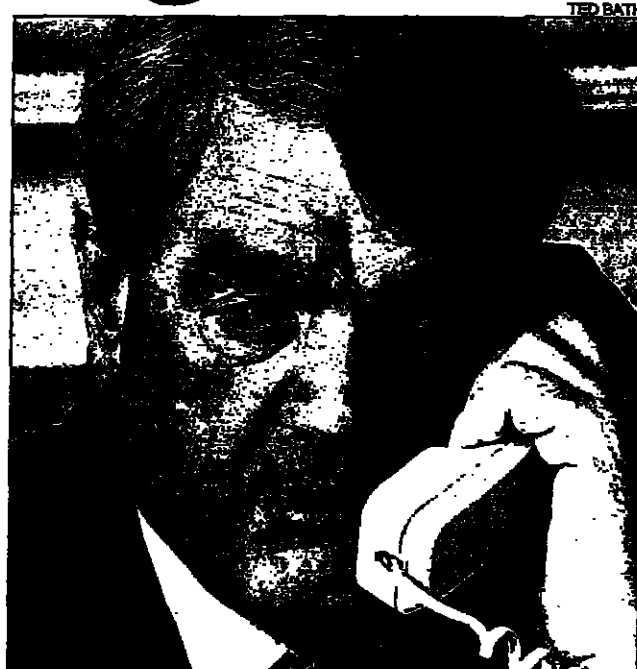
There will be no vacillation, no agonising over whether the miscreant should receive an exemplary sentence of probation or a savage conditional discharge. Instead, the judge will think of immediate imprisonment and little else.

Mr Irving had failed to make a sworn statement disclosing his assets to comply with a German publisher's order for the return of a £58,000 advance. The first finding that he had incurred judicial displeasure was when police went to his London flat to arrest him. In his absence, the judge had ruled him in contempt and sentenced him to three months.

There have been many more remarkable instances. A mother, Annette Donald, found herself jailed for four days in 1990 when she arrived five minutes late for a court hearing because her taxi was caught in a traffic jam.

Others to find themselves on the wrong side of the law include a councillor jailed for seven hours after dressing up as Santa Claus and singing carols at Bargoed court, Mill Glamorgan, in protest at a poll tax summons, and last year a man and his son were sent to prison for swearing at the judge. An hour later, Judge Beechey released and ordered their release.

Magistrates' courts may be



Fair treatment? David Irving, left, was jailed, Roger Levitt, had to do community service, and Judge Prosser was pilloried by a trade union after his decision in a compensation case

no safer for the unwary: Regina v Gray decided that "personal scurrilous abuse of a judge as judge" is a contempt. Even the suggestion that the accused in a criminal trial will not get a fair trial has been held to be contempt.

The union Apex, annoyed at Judge Prosser's decision last October that repetitive strain injury has "no place in the medical books", has started a novel competition. Members have been invited to complete the limerick: "There was an old judge called Prosser... The union promises a prize for the winner but does not say whether it involves a holi-

day, at state expense, with interesting cellmates. But fortunately for Apex members, judges have drawn a distinction between criticisms of them during and after a trial. On the whole, judges use their formidable powers with restraint and only when they actually need to protect the court's dignity than their own.

When Judge Kilfoyle sent a young man to prison for whistling at a female juror, he no doubt thought he was protect-

ing the court system. Similarly, litigants and their advocates are allowed a lot of leeway. The rule that introducing evidence that the court has ruled irrelevant is a contempt is used sparingly and only after warnings.

A criminal contempt is usually dealt with summarily: the contemner is told of the charge against him and then given an opportunity to answer it.

The civil procedure involves a written application to court with the alleged contempt being described in detail. In both cases the courts powers of punishment are limited by the Contempt of Court Act 1981 to fines and a maximum of two years' jail.

Breaches of undertakings given to courts are viewed seriously especially when committed by those who should know better. Contempt proceedings have been started against nine concrete companies that the Office of Fair



Trading claims have breached undertakings on price-fixing given to the Restrictive Practices Court. Eight company directors are also said to have aided and abetted the alleged attempt and could be jailed.

Many contempts arise out of ignorance and stupidity rather than any determined attempt to interfere with the courts. A juror who recently told jurors in another case that they should acquit one of the defen-

dants because he was his friend caused both trials at Leicester Crown Court to be abandoned at a cost of £50,000.

David Buxton, 28, of Braunstone, was fined £600 for con-

tempt. He told the judge that he had not realised the seriousness of his actions.

Nowhere are the contempt laws more rigorously policed than in civil litigation, where opposing parties can accuse the other side of contempt and apply to have their opponent committed to prison for failing to comply with a court order.

In 1967, in a case called *Bluffield v Curtis*, one of the parties was subject to a court order to deliver some documents to the other side's solicitors by a certain date. In error, the documents were delivered to the court instead.

An application was then made to commit Robert Bluffield to prison. The judge imposed a suspended prison sentence. Common sense was restored by the Court of Appeal, which quashed the sentence.

It is sometimes difficult to reconcile a sentencing policy which imposes probation and anger-management courses on those who seriously assault small children with one which regards prison as the usual penalty for breaches of court orders.

● The author is a practising solicitor.

A man was jailed for whistling at a female juror

NO WIGS PLEASE

ONLY two weeks after winning the right to appear in the higher courts, solicitors face a new battle: the Lord Chancellor and Lord Chief Justice have refused their request to issue a practice direction saying they may wear wigs. Who will be the first solicitor to persuade a trial judge to let him appear bewigged?

Collins honoured
LAWRENCE Collins, a Herbert Smith partner and international commercial litigation specialist, has become the first practising solicitor to be awarded an LL.D., as distinct from an honorary degree. The award recognises his academic work on international and European law.

Perfect prose
MICHAEL Chambers, who is launching a new legal magazine later this year, is clear about the writing he dislikes. An advert stated: "There is a school of journalism... which favours the style of the

pulp fiction novelist... at worst, the ego of the journalist comes to the fore." No need to hire Philip Marlowe to work out which legal publishing house he has in mind.

House calls
SOUTHAMPTON City Council claims to have come close to solving one of the city's oldest problems, prostitution. It employed a solicitor and two investigators to show that a business was being carried on in breach of the

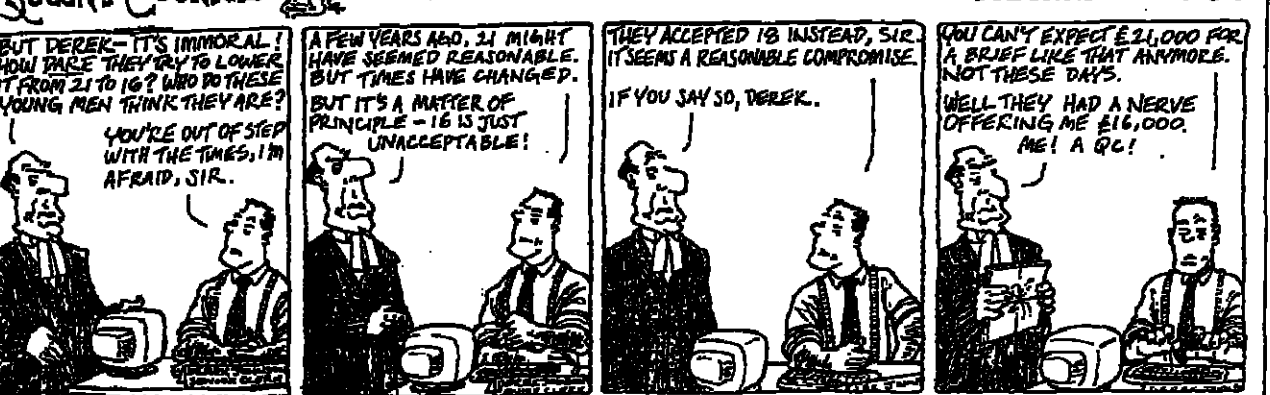
designated use of the premises. The council claims that the number of brothels has dropped from 30 to fewer than a dozen over ten years.

Designer libel
DOYEN of the libel world, Peter Carter-Ruck, celebrated his 80th birthday last night and his firm decided to buy him a new car number plate which was up for auction at Christie's. The letters? LIBEL.

SCRIVENOR
Disappointing news for trainees hoping to hop off to Abu Dhabi (Scrivenor last week: the offer is for local trainees only).

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The Department, which already runs a full range of Law degree, CPE and postgraduate law courses on both a full-time and part-time basis, has recently been approved by the Law Society's Legal Practice Course Board to run the Legal Practice Course on a part-time basis, from September 1994. To supplement the existing core LPC Team, the Department is currently seeking to appoint 3 further Lecturers, one each at the Principal Lecturer, Senior Lecturer and Lecturer grade.

Contributing to the teaching and administration of the Legal Practice Course and also of other undergraduate/postgraduate courses in law you will also be engaged in both curriculum and staff development. The University is investing considerable resources in the LPC Course which constitutes a major opportunity for professionally qualified lawyers with interests or experience in legal education to join a progressive and confident Department.

Qualified as a Solicitor or Barrister, you will possess the ability to communicate legal practice skills, to develop teaching materials and to build effective and credible links with practitioners. At the same time you will enhance the profile of the Department in the Legal Profession and also make a significant contribution to the income generating work of the Department. You must display a willingness to participate in evening and weekend courses and to engage in staff and educational development activities.

Relevant recent experience in the practice of Law at a responsible level and/or teaching experience on an LPC or similar course is essential for the Principal and Senior Lecturer positions and desirable for the Lecturer position. A good Honours Degree in Law and/or postgraduate degree in Law is desirable for all positions but not essential. Information Technology skills would be an advantage.

For an informal discussion, please contact either Richard Taylor, the Head of Department, or Cedric Bell, the Course Leader, on 0772 893060.

When writing, please indicate clearly which post you wish to be considered for.

Ref: AA/53C.

Closing date: 18th March, 1994.

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Lectureships in Law

Applications are invited for the following Lectureship appointments, from October 1 1994.

Lecturers Grade A or B

Ref: LL1/705

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THE LSE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER.

In the Name of the Father, the film about the Guildford Four, distorts the facts for effect. Does it matter? Fiona Bawdon reports

Emma Thompson, the Oscar-winning actress, was an unlikely choice to play Gareth Peirce, Gerald Conlon's solicitor, in the film, *In the Name of the Father*. Ms Peirce — regarded by many as the miscarriage-of-justice solicitor — is known for her almost obsessive shunning of media attention. Andrew Hall, who was solicitor to Winston Silcott of the Broadwater Farm Three, says of her: "Gareth Peirce is not someone who seeks publicity. That's the last thing you could say about her."

If anything, she has been criticised for not being media-friendly enough. After a press conference that she was asked to attend a couple of years ago, a photographer complained that every time he pointed his camera in her direction she ducked her head. On another occasion, when speaking at a meeting soon after the announcement of the Royal Commission — set up in the wake of miscarriages of justice such as the Guildford Four — Ms Peirce declined to be filmed for television.

Yet her portrayal, against her wishes, in *In the Name of the Father*, has meant that Gareth Peirce has become public property. She has even become the focus, in some quarters, of the attendant criticism over the film's many deviations from the facts. She is not comfortable with the situation. "It's painful being depicted in a film and not wanting to be — but that's absolutely minor compared with what actually did happen to people like Gerry Conlon," she says. Ms Peirce has

The truth is far worse than fiction

not seen the film and asked film-makers not to portray her — a request which they refused.

Although Ms Peirce made no input to the film, according to Anthony Scrivener QC, whom she had instructed to represent Gerald Conlon at his appeal, Emma Thompson imitates her very well. "She has got her mannerisms off to a T. Gareth often has a rather faraway look in her eye and makes rather off-the-cuff remarks, which she has captured," Mr Scrivener is not at all concerned that he does not appear in the film. What is important, he says, is that this film gets across to a wide audience the horror of this particular miscarriage of justice. He adds, however, that the film-makers did cut a speech he made at the appeal, which he had been "very pleased with", and in which he said the case should not be paid to any call for a return to capital punishment. But if Mr Scrivener himself does not mind being overlooked, others are disappointed at his non-

appearance. Marcel Berlins, presenter of Radio 4's *Law in Action*, said it was a pity because William Hurt would have done very nicely for the role. Imelda Staunton, he says, would be perfect for Paul Hill's appeal barrister, Helena Kennedy QC and Anthony Hopkins would make an excellent Alastair Logan — the only lawyer to have been involved with the case all the way through.

If any lawyer deserved a cinematic tribute for his work on the case, it is perhaps Mr Logan. He has devoted a huge part of his life to the case, starting in 1974, when the local Guildford police asked him to come to the station to represent a suspected IRA bomber, Paddy Armstrong; right through to advising the Maguire family over their concerns at the inaccuracy of their portrayal in the film.

Mr Logan says he is not bitter about "being airbrushed out of the film". "It doesn't bother me because it's not a film about lawyers," he says. He adds that his slogging



Daniel Day-Lewis as Gerry Conlon is questioned by police in *In the Name of the Father*

away for years might not make a very good story. "One way of looking at it is that I didn't deserve it because, if after 15 years I still hadn't got them out, it was time for someone else to have a go."

He does, however, resent the way the film's release is shown as coming about. "The film says the Guildford Four were released

because of the brilliant work of Gareth Peirce. That's not true. What got them out was that Avon & Somerset police found new evidence in the files — and that a large number of people managed to raise the level of consciousness so that the Government had to act."

Michael Mansfield QC, who acted for the Birmingham Six, says,

however, that by distorting the facts, the film-makers have highlighted an important truth. In reality, the convictions were quashed because the findings of the police enquiry meant that the prosecution decided not to resist the appeal — a move which meant that the mass of evidence accumulated by the defence was never given an

airing in court. "The film focuses on Gerry Conlon's alibi, something which should have come out in the Court of Appeal but didn't," he says. "They were cheated of their appeal."

His sentiments are echoed by Gareth Peirce. "All societies have traditions of relating history through drama. There is value in giving an account, however impressionistic and subjective, of a truly appalling story."

She regrets it very much if any of the victims have been upset by the film, but says that, whatever her personal feelings, what is important is that "this film is hurrying round the world making people aware of something absolutely terrible that happened".

Mr Mansfield adds that the whispering campaign, which insists that the four got off on a technicality, has been fuelled by the fact that the defence case was never explored in court. "A lot of what the film touches on has never been publicly debated. There is a bigger need for this film than ever because some people are still trying to convict the Guildford Four."

Mr Logan, however, cites the smear campaign as one reason why the inaccuracies in the film do matter. "There is a whispering campaign being conducted from the Temple, from the Bench and from various newspapers. As long as that goes on, my clients, the Maguires, will keep on saying 'we are innocent, we have been found not guilty'. They have been saying 'it's not true' since 1974. All this does is mean they have to keep on saying it in the face of the film."



Malcolm Gammie new president

Arguments over who is more trustworthy when it comes to tax are not confined to the political parties. The long-running rivalry between lawyers and accountants over tax matters has also burst into open conflict again.

It started when Peter Wyman, the head of tax at Coopers & Lybrand, made some tart comments on the relative merits of the two professions in dealing with the tax affairs of multinational clients. In reply, Tony Angel, the senior tax partner at Linklaters & Paines, has argued that when a multinational or a bank undertakes a large-scale cross-border transaction, it had better seek the advice of a good tax lawyer first.

The present spat is another symptom of the way the economy is slowly emerging from recession. For the past three years, there has been no business worth fighting over. Now that some notable mergers and acquisitions are likely, the competition for big one-off jobs is likely to be intense. No wonder the accountants, who have viewed this work proprietorially, resent the way

'I regret that at times we are too willing to play the game'

Tax advisers are complaining that new tax legislation is far too complex

in which leading lawyers are starting to bid for it.

The conflict boils down to a couple of issues. The lawyers argue that a big national transaction needs the lawyers' understanding of the way the deal has been assembled so as to devise the most satisfactory way of handling the tax issue. Looking at the tax issues in isolation from the rest of the deal, as they claim the accountants do, is a recipe for a big tax hit.

However, says Allen Powley, of KPMG Peat Marwick, to deal with tax properly, you need a real understanding of the financial affairs of the business. Mr

Powley says the big accountants have the advantage of an international network. "If you have a tax problem in some remote country", he says, "it is good to be able to phone someone in your own organisation for advice." But, replies Mr Angel, how can you guarantee the quality of the advice in some far-off place simply because you are nominally part of the same firm? Far better, he says, to have a free choice of the best lawyer in town.

Although the issues confronting the professional advisers are common, they are viewed from a different angle. Unless, that is, they are on neutral ground. It is

significant that this year's president of the Institute of Taxation is, for only the second time in the institute's history, a lawyer. Malcolm Gammie, as it happens, is a colleague of Tony Angel at Linklaters, and is relishing his presidency. Although he has made it a priority to attract more lawyers into the institute, he must remain presidentially neutral in the wrangle between the two professions.

With its 9,000 members, the institute is one of those rare professional bodies that offers a home for accountants and solicitors.

Given his legal background, it is nat-

ural that Mr Gammie should have focused his attention on the drafting and reviewing of tax legislation. In a speech last month given before Stephen Dorrell, financial secretary to the Treasury, Mr Gammie warned that the current tax legislation is on a scale unprecedented for its complexity and opacity. Mr Gammie said of the Finance Bill: "I recognise the words but in many parts, they are barely comprehensible when read one after the other. The style and language are recognisable only to the draftsman; not the consumers of legislation."

To the cynic who might suggest that the more complex the legislation, the more work for the legal adviser, Mr Gammie responds that consumers are resistant to paying for tax advice. "The tax profession has no interest in complexity," he says. "I regret that at times we are too willing to play the game, to make the system work."

But work it must if the Government, lawyers and the accountants are all to earn their keep.

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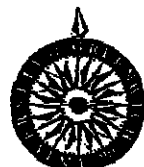
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THEATRE page 40

Othello, or at least some
of it, comes to London in
a staging emphasising
"modern-day parallels"

A vintage crop of dark Rosso

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork on an
important exhibition of works by
Medardo Rosso, once hailed as the
greatest sculptor after Rodin

Late at night, Medardo Rosso would occasionally cast his bronzes in front of an invited audience. I feel sure that he kept the lighting as dim as possible. For much of Rosso's most hypnotic sculpture seems to be half in love with darkness, emerging only with difficulty from the mystery of its indistinct surroundings. Sculpture, supposedly such a solid and tangible affair, became in Rosso's hands a reminder of how elusive reality could be.

His own reputation, outside Italy at least, has been equally hard to assess. Hailed by Apollinaire after Rodin's death as "the greatest living sculptor", Rosso has long secured a place in the history books. But the South Bank Centre's exhibition at the Whitechapel Art Gallery is his first substantial retrospective in Britain. Although several of Rosso's most celebrated pieces were too fragile to travel, enough have been borrowed to throw a bright, rational light on this most ungraspable of artists.

While so many late 19th-century sculptors aspired to produce public statuary of the most grandiose proportions, Rosso preferred to work on a small, intimate scale. Even when exposed in the Whitechapel's clinical white spaces, his art remains strangely secretive. He did make one large work, a multi-figure group bearing the typically enigmatic title *Paris at Night*. But it has not survived, and another elaborate tour de force called *Impressions of an Omnibus* has likewise been destroyed. Judging by the faded photographs of both these major pieces, they were no less blurred and fragmentary than his other outstanding works. Rosso was obsessed by the way movement, and the unruly play of light and shade, challenges the whole notion of sculpture as an immutable presence.

All the same, he never seems aggressive in his experimental zeal. Rosso was, admittedly, thrown out of the Brera Academy in Milan for

hitting a fellow student, but none of this pugnacity can be detected in his art. Even as a young man, his work is gentle and compassionate. The full-length bronze of an *Unemployed Singer* verges on sentimentality, with its wistful tilt of the head and shabby coat. *The Spirit* adopts a more cocksure pose, staring defiantly over his shoulder at someone he despises.

But one of Rosso's most admired early bronzes, *Kiss Under the Lamp-post*, is erotic rather than belligerent. Ardently clasping each other, the two lovers fuse in a single mass of molten desire. Their passionate lack of clarity is contrasted with the direct, unfussy treatment of the lamp-post, which anchors their flowing forms in the incontrovertible mundanity of the street.

Like the Impressionists, Rosso was determined to concentrate on fresh observation of modern, everyday life. He had no patience with the mythological figures by public sculptors, and no time either for the polished finish of the Academy. When he modelled *Sick Man in the Hospital*, the figure was left in a fluid state. His broken forms merge with the armchair, which seems just as crumbling as the invalid it supports.

The pathos is inescapable, and yet Rosso does not strive to rouse his viewer's conscience with the earnestness of a Victorian reformer. This small wax figure looks too modest and unassuming to be associated with crusading fervour. Rosso's innate subtlety prevented him from indulging in polemics, even if his radical feeling for the poor and infirm was sincere enough. Humanitarian socialism helped to dictate his choice of subjects, but he was fascinated above all by the transformation they underwent once the modelling in plaster or wax began.

Look at *The Flesh of Others*, perhaps the most complex and disquieting work on view. With considerable audacity, Rosso offers here a portrait of a prostitute.

Most of his
work can
only be seen
from a single
vantage



In Medardo Rosso's wax sculpture of a prostitute, *The Flesh of Others* (1883), "the hair courses round her head like newly erupted lava"

Rather than brazenly soliciting, though, the woman appears burdened by her existence. While her face is handled with precision, and smoothed into an orderly likeness, the rest of the sculpture is astonishingly inchoate. The thick hair courses round her head like newly erupted lava. It obliterates the woman's ear, and gathers in en-crusted deposits below her chin. She looks threatened by this onrush, which seems ready to smother her face. Rosso is using his freedom of handling as a metaphor for the extinction threatening the prostitute at every turn.

Like most of his work, *The Flesh of Others* can only be seen properly from a single vantage. Walk around it, in search of the reward-

ing alternative views provided by most three-dimensional sculpture, and you will be frustrated. The back is a rudimentary mess, just as Rosso intended. "For me," he wrote, "the most important thing is to make the spectator forget the material of a work of art." He was after momentary, glimpsed sensation, not a proud assertion of physical bulk.

By the time Rosso settled in Paris for a prolonged stay, at the end of the 1880s, his innovations were becoming widely respected by the French avant-garde. Degas was fascinated by a photograph of *Impressions of an Omnibus*, mistaking it for a painting because of the work's light, visionary quality. And Rodin, then at the peak of his

renown as an innovative force, declared his "wild admiration" for Rosso's work.

The great surprise of this exhibition is the section devoted to a pair of classical heads: the Emperor Vitellius and an *Ancient Roman*. They look like respectful copies, and the Victoria & Albert Museum bought them from Rosso in 1896 on that understanding. But the truth is that he made them in order to compete with the past, displaying the copies beside his own work. The juxtapositions would, he believed, prove his superiority and reveal the antique heads as stereotypes compared with his original inventions.

Rosso was, however, a more limited artist than he would have cared to acknowledge. His output

seems meagre when set beside the overwhelming fertility of Rodin. He returned continually to a narrow preoccupation with heads alone, and jealousy may lie behind his bitter claim that Rodin's *Balzac* had borrowed heavily from his example. By the end of the century the two sculptors' friendship had been severed, leaving Rosso to pursue an ever more purged ideal.

It reached a climax of refinement in 1906, with the ethereal *Ecoe Puer*. Rosso had tackled children throughout his career, sometimes in conjunction with mothers whose closeness to their offspring can easily look oppressive. Babies brought out his melancholy side, the strain in his character that led him to accept a number of commis-

CRITIC'S CHOICE

ART ROUNDABOUTS:
To create what is probably Britain's first drive-in (or at least drive-past) exhibition, the London Docklands Development Corporation has funded a series of nine sculptures, mostly by young artists, to be sited along the recently completed road network linking Canary Wharf and London City Airport with the City itself.

The sculptures are mostly cheery, from Paula Haughey's *Fish Burst* at Westferry Circus, which sets shoals of fish in metal and wood swimming round a carved stone plinth, to Paul Casser's plaster and metal Bambi heads at Connaught Bridge and Kumiko Shumizu's *Three Grazes* (post-feminist) in Preston's Road, evoking mother, businesswoman and madonna from waste materials. Best seen by car, but at least five are easily accessible on foot from Canary Wharf.

For map and information telephone 071-512 3000. Until April 5.

DIETER HACKER:
Hacker's painting unmistakably and at a glance belongs to our own era, but it is unusually difficult to say exactly why. His work is at once representational and fanciful: even an apparently straightforward depiction of a table, a surfboard or a lorry stopped on the road seems to carry symbolic overtones, while the major paintings of figures, nude or clothed, male or female, in abstracted landscapes (or maybe theatrical settings) clearly come straight from his personal fantasies. However his effects are analysed, he is clearly a strong and individual voice in contemporary painting.

Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albemarle Street, W1 (071 629 5161). Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Saturday 10am-12.30pm until March 31.

JOHN RUSSELL
TAYLOR

sions for funerary monuments. *Child in the Soup Kitchen* is among his most mournful images, suggesting that Rosso found in the very young a vulnerable reminder of mortality.

The final two decades of his life were spent reworking and making casts of previous sculpture. But Rosso's earlier innovations proved highly influential among the young, inspiring Boccioni's Futurist dynamism at one extreme and Brancusi's pared-down stillness at the other. While the old man became moribund, his legacy had a rejuvenating effect on the development of modern sculpture.

Medardo Rosso, sponsored by BT, at the Whitechapel Art Gallery (071 377 0107) until April 24

POP CONCERTS: Two Brit-winning touches of class

From beauty to the beat

Björk
Royalty, WC2

AS lead singer for the Sugarcubes — Iceland's premier indie rock band — Björk used the stages of the late 1980s to bring her formidably individualistic talents to a global audience, and has never looked back. Since the phenomenal success of her 1993 album, *Debut*, which recently helped her scoop two Brit awards, the diminutive singer-songwriter has effected a conquest that her less benign ancestors would applaud.

Rarely have the accolades been more deserved. Björk is a difficult act to categorise. She is a kittenish child-woman with a large and supple voice. Her words, strung breathlessly, even urgently, over a vaguely jazzy background, can sound odd at first listening. Yet within minutes, their precision dazzles.

This quality holds up magnificently in live performance — at the Royalty, at any rate — under annoying circumstances. The performance was being immortalised for posterity, the film crew cramming lenses into Björk's face at every opportunity. They probably knew from experience that Björk is as slippery as an eel and twice as difficult to catch. Her entrance, made to the lugubrious tones of "Human Behaviour", consisted of three scuttling laps around her six-piece band.

Clad in a raw silk skirt and a cheesecloth shirt whose

sleeves unravelled during the course of the show for maximal flapping effect, Björk grabbed her microphone and unleashed an ocean of sound.

Sea imagery features heavily. "Violently Happy" deals with a tidal emotion. There is a new song, "Atlantic", "Anchor Song" and "Come to Me" could have been written for the Sirens. These are lulling, mysterious songs to drown in, leaving the big brassy sounds of "Play Dead" to send a life-raft. The acid lines of "Big Time Sensuality" finally got the capacity audience to its feet, in time to demand three encores. Few complaints were made when the film crew requested a second take of "Venus As A Boy".

LOUISE GRAY
M People
Brixton Academy

THE selection of M People as Best Dance Act in the 1994 Brit Awards was proof that success does come to those who wait. Probably the most significant achievement of this Manchester trio has been to rally all factions of the infinitely divided dance army, from hardcore clubbers to pubescent posters, to their cause.

But was not ever thus. All three M People have toiled in sundry walks of the industry for years. Even after adopting their current guise, reaction was initially tepid, and their first four singles grubbed around the sleazy end of the

Top 40. Then suddenly the trio's undemanding pop dance formula, and an image centred on the strong vocal and visual presence of Heather Small, hit a collective chord. Four Top Ten singles and a platinum album in the last year say so.

This latest tour, then, is clearly a celebration, but a disciplined one. Small, Mike Pickering (long-time club guru and M People lyricist) and chief tunesmith Paul Heard were joined at the Academy by a supporting cast of seven in an opulently mounted production, all billowing curtains and rich lighting.

Small, a striking figure with her *Bride of Frankenstein*-era Elsa Lanchester hair mountain, remained largely statuesque, and Heard was stationed at his synth, but Pickering, after years of spinning other people's records as a DJ, warmed to his new role as thirtysomething pop star, totting an increasingly ornate saxophone.

Moments of musical reflection were rare: the ballad "Love's In My Soul" had a temporarily calming effect, but largely the performance framed the same invitation that M People's records do — have a good time. As the catalogue of recent hits unfolded, including "Moving On Up", "One Night In Heaven" and the encores "Don't Look Any Further" and "How Can I Love You More", that offer was never going to be turned down.

PAUL SEXTON

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LONDON

ALEXANDRA KOLLONTAI: Barbara Ewing's fascinating one-woman show about the forgotten heroine of the Bolshevik Revolution, Lenin's eloquent comrade. New End, 27 New End, Hampstead, NW3 7TH (071-764 0029). Preview tonight and tomorrow, 8pm. Opera Thursday, until March 2.

LONDON PHILHARMONIC: Franz Westerman conducts Barok's Music for strings, percussion and celesta, and returns to his Australian roots for Bruckner's Symphony No 7. Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 5800). Tonight, 7.30pm. £8.

OMMA: Subtitled *Odyssey* and the Luck of Thebes, Tim Supple's production, recast during rehearsals, has still managed to open on time. Kenneth Macmillan's script drawn on some Greek sources. Young Vic, The Cui, SE1 (071-928 6353). Preview tonight, 7.30pm. Opera March 8, until April 2. £2.

TWYLA THARP: It has been 11 years since Amanda's most entertaining — and inventive — choreographer brought her work to London. Now a two-week season will present a wide range of Tharp's work, from the sensuous *Lulu* romp of *Seidel* to the glamorous look of *Seven Sinners*. Always check a check with dancing physically.

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

and witty intelligence and not to be missed. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W6 (081-746 3354). Tonight-March 12, 7.30pm. No Monday performance.

ELSEWHERE

GLASGOW: The spring season continues at the Stills Studio with *Odyssey* (see review), newly translated and directed by Clara Verbeke, with Cal Macdonald as the troubled hero. At the Cui Studio, Matthew Lloyd's production of *La Ronde* with a young cast of four treading the role. Cui Studio, Glasgow (041-433 0022). Stills Studio, Glasgow, until March 12, 7.30pm. Cui Studio, Glasgow, until March 12, 7.30pm. Cui Studio, Glasgow, until March 12, 7.30pm. Both performances until March 26.

LIVERPOOL: Birmingham Royal Ballet arrive here for one week, only with David Bintley's new production of *Sylvia*, set to a score by Delibes. Plus *Salome* by Stravinsky, *Alcina* by Tchaikovsky.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre following in London

■ House full, returns only
■ Some seats available
■ Seats at all prices

ROYAL COURT, St. James's Square, SW1 (071-730 1749). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Mat, Sat, 3.30pm.

■ **THE LIFE OF GALILEO:** David Hare's new version of the British. Richard Griffiths plays the world-weary scientist hemmed in by the Inquisition. Almeida, Almeida St, N1 (071-339 4400). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat, Sat, 4pm. Until March 21.

■ **PADDYWACK:** Daniel Maguire's new play, set in a Dublin bedchamber, an elegiac Irishman seduces two students with the wrong kind of charm. Cottesloe, Cottesloe St, NW6 (071-402 5081). Preview tonight, 8pm. Opens tomorrow, 8pm. Mon-Sat, 8pm, until March 26.

■ **PIERCE GORDON:** A father's self-sacrificing love for his unimpressed daughter. Geoffrey Beavers adapts and directs. Orange Tree, Clarendon Street, Richmond (0181-940 3333). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat, Sat, 2.30pm and Sat, 4pm. Until March 12.

■ **PIAF:** Elaine Paige in powerful voice as the French sparrow. The play is set in a Parisian cabaret. Pinter, Pinter St, SW1 (071-837 1118). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat, Sat, 2.30pm and Sat, 4pm.

■ **SEPTEMBER TIDE:** Daphne du Maurier's drama of inappreciated passion returns to the stage. York at the Theatre Royal, York (0430-210 1045). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat, Wed 3pm and Sat 4pm.

■ **THE KITCHEN:** Stephen Daldry's in-the-round Western. The stalls will not be used, there is seating on the stage at Dress Circle level, and a small scaffolding in between, with 30 chairs, nothing manically about.

NEW RELEASES

■ **COOL RUNNING:** PGI. Cheerful comedy about the Jamaican bobsled team at the 1988 Winter Olympics. John Luntz directs. John Luntz, Leon and Doug E. Doug. Blackie (071-752 3333) (071-752 3333). Warner (071-437 4343).

■ **KAPKA (15):** Steven Soderbergh's latest, but atmospheric London on the theme of Franz Kafka, shot in Prague with Jeremy Irons and Theresa Russell. MGM Shakespeare Avenue (071-436 8278).

■ **THE PELICAN BRIEF (12):** Low student John Roberts, a trained by head master and the FBI. Slick, taut, taut. Version of John Grisham's novel, co-starring Denzel Washington. Director, John Dahl. Warner (071-333 9772).

■ **PHILADELPHIA (15):** An AIDS victim's fight for justice. Compromising glare but dramatic. John Dahl directs. Warner (071-436 8278).

■ **LA CRISTE (15):** Melodrama run down on the French bourgeoisie. Attraction: a superb performance by Vincent Lindon and Patrick Timsit. Everyman (071-436 8278).

■ **FAREWELL MY CONCUBINE (15):** Chen Kaige's Cannes prizewinner, a bumper bundle of clashing colours, Peking Opera, and Chinese history. Chelsea Cinema (071-333 3743).

■ **IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER (15):** Father and son share a prison cell. Powerful, urgent film inspired by the real case of the Guildford Four. Pate, Pate Cinema (071-436 8278).

■ **THE AGE OF INNOCENCE (12):** Tom Ripley's splendidly bleak version of Edith Wharton's novel. Directed by Jane Campion. Warner (071-436 8278).

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THEATRE: Condensed Shakespeare and a Romanian monologue on the London fringe

Moor turns out to mean less

Othello
Watermans, Brentford

JUST because a company gives itself a silly name — Gambolling Guizers, Ra-Ra Zoo or Walk the Plank, to name a few that have recently had Arts Council grants — there is no reason to be suspicious of its work. And Custard Factory has built itself a reputation in its home town of Birmingham for productions of classics that are as far from sweet, shieldy and yellow. But with the *Othello* it is now bringing to London the company has, I fear, taken on a play somewhat beyond its physical and emotional resources.

Even with Richard Wills Cotton's Rodrigo skilfully swivelling and bending so that his callow Rodrigo becomes the aged Brabantio, or Carolyn Coleman's Emilia putting on a half-mask to play the colonial potentate Montano, the five-person cast is pretty pushed. Bianca disappears from the plot. The complexities involved in Rodrigo's stabbing of Cassio, which would mean poor Wills Cotton trying to assassinate himself, are averted by the equally unsatisfactory expedient of dropping the entire incident.

Only at the end, though, do the cuts have great impact on the play's clarity and meaning. Jacqui O'Hanlon's sweet Desdemona — having weirdly transformed the Willow Song into a Negro spiritual — is duly asphyxiated by her husband. Emilia is stabbed to death by Michael Glenn-Murphy's Iago. Clinton Blake's Othello then does himself in, as he must. But that leaves only two performers who aren't corpses, one of them Iago himself. Who, then, can carry him away to lingering torments? Nobody, really, and he is left to stand at the back, gloating over his handiwork. Is it the intention of the director, Julie-Anne Robinson, to show evil triumphant and unpunished? Certainly, she accomplishes this more successfully than her professed aim, which is



Carolyn Coleman (Emilia), Jacqui O'Hanlon (Desdemona) and Clinton Blake (Othello) of Custard Factory

to draw "very clear modern-day parallels by emphasising the fact that Othello's marriage is public property and how this public knowledge is used to destroy his marriage". Though the cast sometimes choruses lines — "O thou Othello that wert once so good" an hour before it actually occurs — there is scant sense of the play having a

"public" dimension. That needs more than five actors and a pile of cushions on a tiny stage backed by a frilly purple curtain. Blake's Othello could be stronger in the characterisation, authority, love, pain and rage departments, but Glenn-Murphy's Iago, though apt to launch into melodramatic snarls, mocks and sneers effectively enough. I also liked Coleman's stately Emilia, who slouches round the stage justifying her husband's suspicions of her fidelity and, hence, his vindictiveness. There at least is an idea for a more complete production one day to reuse.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Sentimental memoir by veteran of stage

Romania: A Journey in My Mind
Man in the Moon, SW3

There is indulgence involved on both sides of the footlights. You can sense the warmth and courage Buznea must have in real life, but you do have to work at it. Her East European English is charming yet sometimes confounding. When she did a one-woman Pinau show at the Palladium, she apparently enjoyed "seeing the agents' interviews". Is she cryptically

alluding to the critics' reviews? Her memoir, *A Journey in My Mind*, migrating between Bucharest and London and between 1968 and the revolution of 1989, is meandering. There are loose ends (far less entertaining than Sherrin's Saturday morning radio drama). Buznea begins relating her trek back to Romania to fetch her son. There is drama en route: she

hitch-hikes alone and trudges, lost and penniless, for miles. Then she sidetracks: we never discover whether she achieved her goal or not.

Though her passing references to tragic personal events are touching, her account is too often banal. Albeit emotionally, she merely recalls the television coverage we all saw of Ceausescu's overthrow. The private correspondence she reads out is not of general or particular interest. As a chanteuse, she can still shine. She sings Pinau with husky fervor. Yet in telling her own history, she slightly acts up the past for sentimental effect while — paradoxically adjusting her hair or coat — she is, paradoxically, too much herself.

KATE BASSETT

CONCERT: In Liverpool, the audience warms to a neglected choral setting of Keats

Holst rarity revived

WHATEVER problems the orchestra might have at present, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir is in very good voice. Indeed, it is unlikely that any British ensemble of its kind could have excelled this one in coping with the problems in Holst's Choral Symphony and in remaining buoyant and radiant throughout. At the end of the long and allegedly ill-formed finale there was still no serious sign of wear.

For the success of the performance in general, which aroused unexpected enthusiasm in a large audience in the Philharmonic Hall, much of the credit must obviously go to Vernon Handley, modest though he was in disclaiming it by pointing to the score on the desk beside him. For the security of the choral voices in harmonies alien to the

English choral tradition, for the definition of line in contrapuntal exposure and for the wide range of colour at the conductor's disposal, credit is surely due to Ian Tracey, the chorus master, if there was some uncertainty about the precise timing of several entries, that was surely a matter of the pressure of the occasion rather than any lack of preparation.

The audience's enthusiasm was unexpected because there is so little obvious warmth and still less sensuality in Holst's setting of, for the most

part, inferior Keats. Not even the second movement, based on the obviously superior *Ode to a Grecian Urn*, but characterised by bizarre harmonies and frosty instrumental colouring, is designed for seduction.

It does, on the other hand, have a luminous quality which is perceptible also, if less consistently, in other sections of the symphony. The inspiration in Handley's interpretation was in uncovering this particular quality and in projecting it on to carefully plotted structures and clearly presented choral

and orchestral textures. The bright soprano was Fiona Cameron.

As for the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, it was playing much better under its principal guest conductor than recent events had led one to expect it might. There was a touch too much trumpet in the *Pomp and Circumstance* March No 3 in C minor, but balance was otherwise well adjusted and the sound generally cohesive. Accompanying Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi in a thoroughly idiomatic though (in the second movement) imprecisely detailed account of *Clara's Cello Concerto*, the orchestra displayed an encouraging commitment and vitality articulated rhythmic purpose.

GERALD LARNER

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A tourist at the Oscars

Matt Wolf talks to scriptwriter William Nicholson about his three-tier success with *Shadowlands*

Few works in recent years have shown the staying power of *Shadowlands*, the William Nicholson script about C.S. Lewis's awakening into emotional vulnerability faced with the American poet Joy Gresham, whom he loved — and then lost to cancer.

The story was first told in a 1985 television film for the BBC with Joss Ackland and Claire Bloom, which won both a Bafta award and an International Emmy. A West End play followed four years later, with Nigel Hawthorne, who subsequently won a Tony for his Broadway performance. Now comes the Hollywood version, a \$19 million film, starring Anthony Hopkins, Debra Winger and lots of lush British countryside. What's next? *Shadowlands* the opera? Or, jokes Nicholson, "on ice, with Torvill and Dean?"

Nicholson has been nominated for an Oscar for his screenplay, and in Hollywood he is in great demand, with three scripts ready to roll and phone calls to his Sussex home from Steven Spielberg and Sydney Pollack. But throughout his commitment to this story, dissenters have been heard. Former New York Times theatre critic Frank Rich wrote in 1990 that *Shadowlands* "is the kind of work often described as literature, especially by non-readers", even though no one on stage is "so boorish as to discuss the actual substance of the books and authors whose names are bandied about". In England, some see the 46-year-old Nicholson as having struck a sentimental oil well, a middle-brow craftsman making the author says, "a machine to jerk tears".

"*Shadowlands* is a crowd-pleaser," says Nicholson, who deflects criticism with the relaxed manner of one whose simultaneous academic success at Cambridge — a double first in English — and passion for musicals and cowboy movies earned him a reputation, he laughs, for "having a bit of a vulgar side. When I told people I adored *The Magnifi-*

cent Seven, they looked at me as if it were a bit of a lapse." Besides, he says, London's "educated elite" harbours pre-conceptions that render impossible the enjoyment of *Shadowlands*. "We've been taught by the kind of artists we admire to respond to the ambiguous and the obscure. If you can understand something too easily, it's not cleverer than you, and then maybe somebody won't respect you for admiring it."

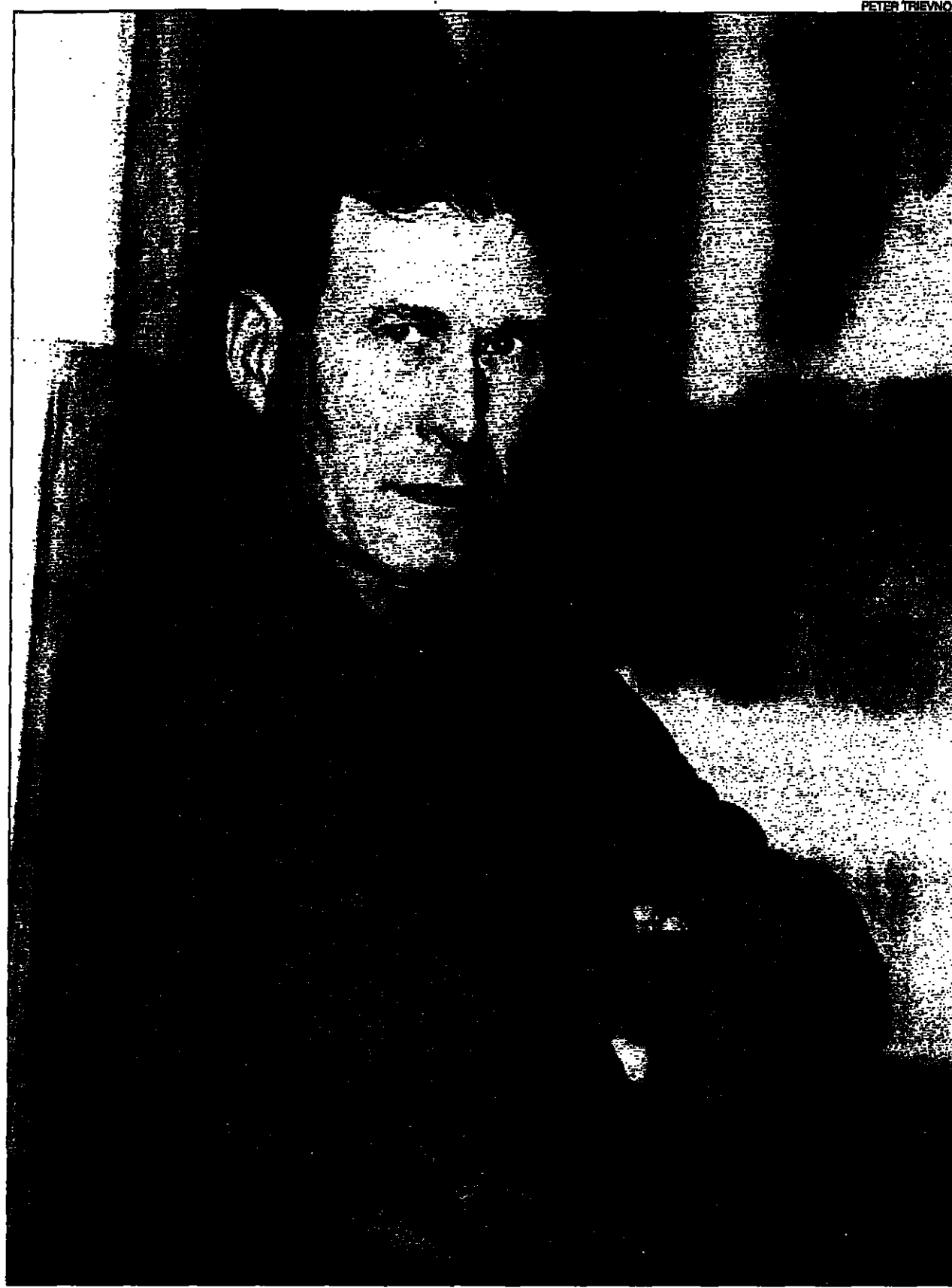
Over afternoon tea, his son James the only evidence of an earlier spill from his bicycle on the trip up to London, Nicholson says: "I like power; I like

you've got, as well as a lot of non-naturalistic stuff which I just loved."

The film, he says, is both "overly naturalistic" and also the finest of the trio: "I've done all sorts of things nobody will ever notice that make it much, much better," he says, citing his handling of Joy Gresham's initial visit to England. "In the stage play and TV version, Joy comes over the first time basically on a visit, perhaps seeing a publisher; in the film, she admits to Lewis on that first visit that she's not in England by chance but because her husband has fallen in love with someone else; she's running away. That change puts her in a vulnerable position already, and stops her looking predatory."

Nicholson praises the film's director, Richard Attenborough, for avoiding expected bathos. "It really pisses me off when people say Attenborough has created yet another piece of sentimental exploitation. People come to the Richard Attenborough/*Spitting Image* idea of tears gushing and him saying huffy to everybody, and they fail to realise that is exactly what has not happened in this film. "The emotion is real and is earned. Richard was absolutely adamant — everyone was about holding back, but of course it is a story that delivers emotionally so you mustn't hold back all the way. You have to pace it."

If *Shadowlands* hit a nerve, Nicholson was less successful with his second stage play, the 1991 hostage drama *Map of the Heart*, with Patrick Malahide and Sinead Cusack, that ran for three weeks. "That was a 21-carat flop; there's no getting away from it," says Nicholson, who recalls "trying to write a play about what it is in a marriage that is worth holding on to even when and if you've fallen in love with somebody else. The hostage thread was a device to freeze the husband at the point of leaving his wife. But the mistake was I introduced a



Some people see William Nicholson, he confesses, as a middle-brow craftsman making "a machine to jerk tears"

theme I didn't develop, and that happened to be the theme everyone was interested in" — the hostage element which, ironically, ended up taking the play's true concerns hostage. Nicholson has a commission from the Royal Shakespeare Company, but is so busy in films he may not get round to it for some time. In

April he starts his next film, the \$23 million *Nell*, starring Jodie Foster and Liam Neeson and directed by Michael Apted, and in July comes another film, *First Knight* by Jerry Zucker, a "mega, megabudget" action adventure. Then comes *Serenade* by Whitney Houston, a romantic musical comedy, after which

Nicholson hopes to write and direct his first feature: a 19th-century English period piece. For the moment, though, he is busy catching up with his Oscar competition — to date, he's seen only *The Remains of the Day*, which he describes as "a one-joke picture" — and preparing to attend the March 21 ceremony with his wife,

Virginia. "We're going to go and look at all the stars, and in a way it's even more fun because you know you're not going to win," he says, ceding defeat in his category to Stephen Zailliam of *Schindler's List*. "I'll be a tourist, which should be wonderful."

● *Shadowlands* opens in London on Friday

ARTS BRIEFING

Scots' super stage

EDINBURGH's new Festival Theatre — proud possessor of the largest stage in Britain — opens its doors in June with a double helping of galas. A June 25 gala from Scottish Opera will feature Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde*; on June 29 it will be Scottish Ballet's turn. Then on July 5 the Festival Theatre plays host to its first major season: a two-week visit by English National Ballet. ENB will present its new production of *The Sleeping Beauty*, along with *Swan Lake*, *Coppélia* and a triple bill (*Bayadère*, *X.N. Tricities*, *Etudes*). The theatre, a £21 million project that involved building an entirely new structure around the 1928 auditorium of the old Empire Theatre, will be the flagship venue for the Edinburgh Festival.

● ADD Jim Cartwright's play *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* to the seemingly endless list of London productions bound for New York this spring, including *Carousel*, *An Inspector Calls* and Diane Samuels's fringe hit *Kindertransport*. Cartwright's play about an alcoholic mother and her bizarrely gifted daughter arrives in New York on May 1, in the Steppenwolf Theatre Company of Chicago production.

Lost and found

THE forthcoming season of "Discover the Lost Musicals" at London's Barbican cinema confirms the past impression that the only musicals lost these days are American. The enjoyable series of semi-staged performances, organised by Ian Marshall Fisher, opens and closes with Cole Porter shows, *Let's Face It* (1941) and *Red, Hot and Blue* (1936). Gershwin is represented by the original 1927 version of the anti-war romp *Strike Up the Band*, while Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg contribute *Bloomer Girl* (1944), *New Girl in Town* (1957), Bob Merrill's musical treatment of O'Neill's *Anna Christie*, rounds off the season, which runs most Sunday afternoons from May 1 to October 9.

CHAMBER MUSIC: Stephen Pettitt on Holt's abstraction — and medieval love songs

Myths ancient and modern

Within a few days London has had the pleasure of hearing first performances of works by two composers who might well be seen in years to come as the pair that succeeded Britten and Tippett, Birtwistle and Davies, as standard-bearers of this island's music.

Incautious words perhaps, but both Mark-Anthony Turnage, whose *Your Rockaby* so impressed on Wednesday, and Simon Holt continue to shape up well for such a destiny. Holt's latest commission from the Nash Ensemble — and how fruitful his relationship with that group has been — has spawned another meticulously crafted and original essay. He has called the new piece *all fall down*, although he denies any association with the Plague rhyme associated with those words, and says that he thought of the work in abstract terms.

That is fair enough because, as with his *Kites* (1983), the title indicates the way in which the work is shaped: ideas struggle to take off but collapse in a heap; or, to use his own vivid visual imagery, the music aims for a brick wall, only to

Nash Ensemble/
Sequentia
Purcell Room

disappear suddenly and unexpectedly into an unseen ditch. The gentle lullaby rhythm established by the piano at the opening provides a recurrent point of repose, a safe return from the violent activity which marks the work and Holt's music in general.

The dynamic interplay of motions and colours — the work is composed for a sextet of string trio, piano, horn and bass clarinet doubling E flat clarinet — does not seem imposed by a creator intent on making effect for effect's sake. And Holt, like Turnage, has found his own harmonic orbit: vertical aspects are as carefully controlled as horizontal ones.

Much of Holt's output to date has more or less explicit extra-musical connotations, and one is struck in particular by his preoccupations with traditional mythologies and mysteries of the night, with the poetry of Lorca, and with the figure of Lilith, the night-witch

or Adam's first wife. Abstract the new piece might be, but those obsessions are still with him. They promise much for the opera he is soon to begin.

The Nash Ensemble's members served his piece well, as they did Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time* and Oliver Knussen's four suavely executed *Songs Without Voices, Book One*. But as usual Knussen failed to finish his own commission for this concert, *Songs Without Voices, Book Two*. He would do well to remember a journalist's maxim: if you cannot meet the deadline, do not take the job.

Every medieval group has to create its own solution to the perennial problem of presenting medieval music to a 20th-century audience. The Cologne-based ensemble Sequentia chooses a topic, constructs a varied programme around it, and sells it by presenting it from memory as intimate theatre. Their subject in this concert was *Love Terror*, which the programme booklet defined as the "extreme phase of courtly love", where the agony of unattainable desire reaches its zenith, though in some pieces wry

observation and self-deprecation can act as safety valves.

Sequentia's two singers, Barbara Thornton and Benjamin Bagby, took opposing roles. Thornton was the purveyor of sadness, and she began with a song from the *Carmina Burana* manuscript, "Clauso Chronos et serato", accompanied and framed by Bagby's harp and Elizabeth Gaver's medieval fiddle, both instrumentalists freely improvising, as they often did throughout the evening.

Gaver showed herself to be a pleasingly positive and athletic player. But Thornton's voice, though it has attractive qualities, sounds untrained and monochromatic, not helped by a tendency to look at the ground and occasionally to sing through her teeth.

Her vocal shortcomings were most evident in her one happy contribution, Oswald Wolkenstein's spring song "Vil liebe grüesse", where intonation and control of dynamics both needed attention. In the more reflective numbers, the early 14th-century German poet Alexander's "Min treulich klagen" and the 10th-century German song "Levis exsurgit Zephrus", she nevertheless summoned a rare intensity of feeling; she feels these songs to her marrow, and knows the societies that bred them.

When not playing his harp, Bagby was charged with presenting the more narrative works. Peter of Blois's "Olim sudor Herculis", the scene of Brunhild's bedroom battle with the disguised Siegfried from the original *Nibelungenlied*, and Wolkenstein's hilarious essay on the miseries of being married, "Dürch Barbara, Arabia", were all related engagingly and with actions that left us in no doubt as to exactly where we were.

The two singers joined together for a conductus from the early 13th-century School of Notre Dame, "Veneris prosperis", and Wolkenstein's "Ach senleches klagen". Both pieces were euphonious and flexible, although the way Thornton and Bagby stood, bodies almost touching and smiling dewy-eyed, brought to mind duetting crooners in a Las Vegas variety show.

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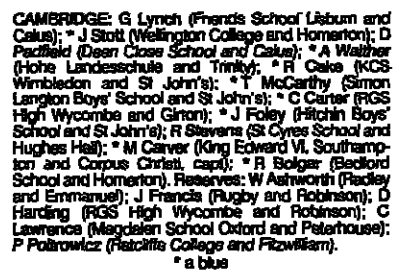
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THE TIMES

FROM MEL WEBB IN JEREZ, SPAIN

Unorthodox

Max Taylor



prospects

[illegible]

with a record first prize of £25,000.

In the pairs, Rees and Jones bowled exceptionally well to knock out Corsie and Alex Marshall, the world outdoor champions, 7-3, 7-4, 6-7-1. The Welshmen will play Gary Smith and Andy Thomson in the semi-finals on Thursday. The luck ran against the Scots but the Welsh pair deserved to win.

RESULTS: Singles: Second round: McMahon (W) vs J Price (Wales) 3-7, 7-3, 3-7; 2-7, 1-7. Taylor (W) vs J. G. Smith (W) 7-3, 7-4, 5-7, 1-7. Price (W) vs G. Smith and A. Thomson (Eng) 7-3, 7-4, 5-7, 1-7. Taylor and R Penneil (AUS) 4-7, 7-6, 7-1, 6-7. Rees and J Price (Wales) vs G. Smith and A. Thomson (Eng) 7-3, 7-4, 5-7, 1-7.

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OF THE ABOVE LISTED COMPANIES

I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that I am acting as the Official Receiver and Insolvency Practitioner, of those companies listed above, under the Insolvency Act 1986, and appointed Liquidator of Opalsafe Financial Limited on 10 February 1994 all claims should be sent to me at the above address.

All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their debts in writing to me. No further public advertisement or invitation to serve debts will be made.

Dated: 21 February 1994.

**SELIX LIMITED
AND
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986**
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of Creditors of the above named Company will be held at Trevelyan House, 180-192 High Road, Boreham, Essex, SSG11 1JQ, on Friday 11th March 1994, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of considering the proposed appointment of 79, 100 and 101 of the said Act. A list of the names and addresses of the Company's Creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at the offices of A Seegal & Co, Trevelyan House, 180-192 High Road, Boreham, Essex, SSG11 1JQ, on any business day between 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. as from Wednesday 9th March 1994.
Dated this 24th day of February 1994
A PAOHIAN
Director

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and division: Bouremouth: 1 Plymouth
SPORTS CENTRAL LEAGUE:
division: Postponed: Mansfield v Tottenham
ARGENTINEAN LEAGUE: Racing
Ferrocarril Oeste: 2 Deportivo
Velez Sarsfield: 0; Rosario Central 0
0; Boca Juniors 0; River Plate
0; Boca Juniors 0; Deportivo
Gimnasia y Esgrima: 2; Platense 2 River
Sarsfield 0 Independiente 0.

BRAZILIAN LEAGUES: Fluminense
Vozes Paulistas 0 Macaense 0, Av
Americano 1, Bengo 4 Sapera
Paulista: São Paulo 2 Palmeiras 1; Pon
2 Bragantino 1; Guarani 3 Mogi 4

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Division: Cardiff
Pastorship: 7
St. 1-5; Whitley
Pastor: Yesterday

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
White has no good answer to 1...h4! The main line is 2...h4 Qf2

1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl *a*)

Venables excels on first cruise into uncharted waters



Beardsley: recalled

Novelist, pundit, city slicker, football guru, wit, raconteur, working-class hero, man of the world. El Tel. Terry Venables has changed coats more times than a chameleon in his career and, yesterday, he turned up in the guise of coach of the England football team, smartly dressed in green jacket and subdued tie, fingering his specs like an absent-minded professor, ready to parry the first shots from poisoned quills.

He carried it off well, as you would expect from a veteran of courtroom dramas and Spanish inquisitions, with gravitas and humour. "You're making me nervous, talking about my England squad. I hadn't really thought of it as mine," he joked. "But from an early age, everyone picks their own team. It's all about opinions." Just ask Bobby Robson and Graham

Taylor. There were not that many of Venables' views on show at the unveiling of his first squad. Wisely, he did not hand out sticks with which he could be beaten 12 months hence, revealing little of his long-term thinking. But at least he said nothing faster than his predecessor.

While thoughts and phrases came tumbling from the lips of Taylor, to be swept up at random and often popped straight in the bin, Venables is less verbose, aware of the delicate balance between saying too little, thereby encouraging a follow-up question, and saying too much, allowing room for misinterpretation.

He is the master of the three-liner, able to cut off an unpromising interrogation with a curt response and a shift of eye contact that Taylor never mastered. He will be a much tougher nut to crack than



Andrew Longmore looks on as the new England coach announces his squad and then breezes through the interrogation

Taylor, who veered as crazily in his relations with the media as he did in his team selections.

Would Wright and Waddle have been included if they had been fit, Venables was asked. "They might have." "But would they?" "They might have." "Will Gazza play?" "He's in the squad." "I would suggest that if you need a wide man, Anderson must have every chance of playing." "Yes, that's right." At times, as he studiously avoided closing the door on any player, it was like listening to Kenny Dalglish with a cockney accent. Venables knows the game,

understands the agenda behind the questions.

David Davies, the new public relations director of the Football Association, will not have any easier days, not least because Venables' first England squad was media friendly. There was something for everyone. A nice geographical spread — from the Channel Islands (Le Tissier and Le Sau) to Newcastle (Beardsley) — a doff of the cap to the past (Pearce), respectful continuity, exciting innovation and a neat personal stamp in the elevation of his boy, Anderson, who Venables had brought to Tot-

tenham Hotspur in his pre-courtroom days. It was a squad for the people, selected by the people's choice and carefully chosen, too.

Without a competitive match for two years, Venables has time to indulge a few whims, to play enigmas like Le Tissier, knowing he has nothing to lose. If they fail, well at least he tried: if they succeed, he is a genius. With a squad of 18 and no named standbys, he gave himself the freedom to lump a whole host of players — Merson, Winterburn, Palmer — into the broom cupboard without prompting talk of clean sweeps. The test will come when he has to pick a team for his life, to win the European championship on home soil. "This is just the starting point," he said. Indeed. For both sides.

Tel v The Media will be a good contest. Venables is a popular

figure with public and players and now has a powerful hold on the nation's emotions. Every England win will heighten his popularity on the street, deaden minds to the more vulnerable areas of his past. If England keep winning, other sins will be forgiven more readily.

Even yesterday, reminders of troubles past were too close for comfort. If Venables had turned right instead of left in the foyer of the Royal Lancaster Hotel, he would have gatecrashed a seminar entitled "Improving Your Business Performance." On Friday, the publication of a book called *Venables — The Inside Story*, by Harry Harris and Steve Curry, threatens to stir more mud in already murky waters. One way or another, the honeymoon phase, as all England managers have found, is bound to end in capsiz.

Tranmere protest at Bosnich decision

BY PETER BALL

THE fallout from Aston Villa's victory over Tranmere Rovers in the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final continued to rumble yesterday. Tranmere's chief executive (and chairman designate), Frank Corfe, was moved to write to the Football Association complaining about refereeing standards, while Ron Atkinson, the Villa manager, attacked the failure to have a replay before a penalty shoot-out was employed.

The decision by Allan Gunn, the referee, not to send off Mark Bosnich for bringing down John Aldridge became crucial during the penalty shoot-out as Bosnich's saves saw Villa through, but Corfe insisted yesterday that he was more concerned about principles than that specific example. "We have seen more curious refereeing decisions this season than ever before," Corfe said yesterday. "We are not making a formal protest about what happened, but we have written to the FA."

"In all my time at Tranmere, I have never once complained about a referee, but this is serious stuff. I would estimate it could have been worth up to £500,000 to this club if we had reached Wembley."

Many people have felt that the punishment of sending a player off for a "professional" foul should only apply outside the penalty area, where a free-kick is little compensation, and that to send a player off as well as awarding a penalty is a double punishment. However, if there is sympathy with that view, the directives of Fifa, the game's world governing body, are clear, and under Fifa's rules there seems little doubt that Bosnich should have been dismissed.

"It is a frustrating thing when you don't know what referees are going to do," Corfe said. "A lot of people were astonished by what hap-

pened on Sunday and we feel the point must be made, not just on behalf of Tranmere, but on behalf of all clubs. The governing bodies must now act to clear up the uncertainty."

That Bosnich eventually emerged as the Villa hero only made it doubly galling for Tranmere. Had the Endsleigh Insurance League club had a replay to look forward to, some of the heat would have been taken out of the controversy. Tranmere at least can take some consolation from the news that their millionaire chairman, Peter Johnson, is likely to be with them for the rest of this season before his transfer to Everton.

Villa will have to wait until tomorrow night to find out their opponents at Wembley and both Manchester United and Sheffield Wednesday were waiting anxiously for news of their injured players yesterday, with Chris Waddle and Dennis Irwin causing their respective managers the most concern.

Blackburn Rovers, United's most serious rivals in the FA Carling Premiership, were taking stock of their forward situation yesterday after the injury to Kevin Gallacher, who is in a local hospital after breaking his leg in three places on Saturday. Dalglish enquired about Les Ferdinand, of Queens Park Rangers, and Chris Sutton, of Norwich City, earlier in the season.

Blackburn however only have one match in the Premiership in the next three weeks, Saturday's meeting with Liverpool, giving the other injured forwards, Mike Newell and Paul Warhurst, time to press their cases. Newell, the obvious replacement, is still some way from being fit, but Dalglish is likely to wait and monitor the progress of Warhurst, who is recovering from a broken leg.

Diadora sides split

NEWBURY Town and Aldershot Town, the Diadora League clubs, were kept apart in the draw for the semi-finals of the FA Vase made yesterday. Newbury, who are coached by Don Howe, will play their postponed match at Taunton Town on Saturday knowing that a semi-final against Boston, of the United Counties League, awaits.

Aldershot's hopes of reaching Wembley were dented by being held 0-0 by Atherton Labourers Rovers at the

Recreation Ground on Saturday — before a crowd of 4,246. Mark Butler, the Aldershot forward, was sent off for a second bookable offence. If they get past the Bass North West Counties League leaders in the replay on Saturday, Aldershot will play Diss Town, 1-0 conquerors of Tiverton Town, last season's final finalists, on Saturday.

SEMI-FINAL DRAW: Taunton Town v Newbury Town v Boston, Diss Town v Aldershot Town v Atherton LA. Matches over two legs, to be played on March 19 and 26.



Brundle, who has yet to secure a drive for 1994, concentrates on business matters until the grand prix jigsaw pieces fall into place

Brundle waits for the music to stop

Martin Brundle has been here before, his stomach tied up in knots, his heart leaping and plunging every time the phone rings. With less than a month before the first race of the Formula One season in Brazil, he is still a grand prix driver without a drive, holding out for the big prize.

At the end of 1992, after being discarded by Benetton despite a successful season, Brundle was favourite to land the coveted second Williams seat beside Alain Prost. After long weeks of nail-biting came cold disappointment when the promptings of Patrick Head persuaded Frank Williams to plump for Damon Hill. Ligier, the French team, were still interested, so Brundle settled for them.

After another solid season, he is back in the maze, playing the game, turning corners and running up against dead ends. He raised a few eyebrows by rejecting a drive with Jordan in mid-January, confirming that he was gambling on securing the second McLaren seat alongside Mika Hakkinen.

A week after that decision, Ron Dennis, McLaren's managing director, announced that Prost had agreed to test

the new Peugeot-powered car and expressed the hope he would race for the team in the coming season.

Prost is likely to drive the car for the first time this week. If he is impressed and decides to compete in the world championship, Brundle will either be limited to the role of over-qualified test driver or find himself back in a twilight world, scrapping for the last elusive seats. If Prost retreats into his retirement, however, the Englishman's gamble might pay off, although John Herbert, the Lotus driver, is also a contender.

Brundle, 34, one of the most eloquent and courteous of drivers, blamed his failure to land the Williams drive in part on his own openness and has studiously avoided commenting on the extent of his contacts with McLaren for fear of offending anew.

He is coy about the specifics, but on the mental jousting and inner torment inherent in his situation, he is unequivocal. "It is like a game of musical chairs and when the music stops, you've got to make sure you have got somewhere to sit down," he said. "It is very difficult to work out how much you are worth to whom."

Oliver Holt finds a British driver still playing cat-and-mouse as the grand prix season draws nearer

"Every so often, and by that I mean every day, somebody will put a bit of top-spin on something, spread a little bit of disinformation and you have to try and work out who is really saying what without letting it get to you too much. You have to second-guess what these things mean, but I suppose it is really just like the cut-and-thrust of any other business. You have friends, and you have enemies."

Brundle, who lives in King's Lynn, Norfolk, with his wife, Liz, and children, Charlotte and Alexander, has turned his back on Formula One before, rather than take an uncompetitive drive, and won the world sports car championship in 1988 and Le Mans in 1990.

This year, although Tom Walkinshaw has made it plain he would like him as the pilot of his fledgling IndyCar team, Brundle's sights are set firmly on grand prix racing

and he is kicking his heels while Schumacher, Senna, Hakkinen, Hill and the rest resume their peripatetic existences around Europe's favourite testing venues.

"This year, I feel as though I have been left behind," he said. "It is like I have got off the merry-go-round and it is going on without me. In some ways, that is nice because I am going into my 24th season of some form of motor racing so it is welcome to have a little time off. I just wish it had been a relaxing three or four months instead of the bomb of psychological warfare it has turned into."

On past form, Dennis is quite capable of keeping right to the end. He played an advanced form of brinkmanship with Senna at the same stage last year, when the Brazilian was quibbling about his contract, and may delay naming his drivers until a few days before the first race in São Paulo in his attempts to cajole Prost back into the fold.

It all points to at least another fortnight of uneasy free time for Brundle, more of the rigorous training workouts, including five-mile runs and long sessions on rowing

machines three times a week. "You have to concentrate on getting your body ready for the G-forces," Brundle said. "Because of the time I have had off, I am fitter now than I have ever been. After you have been away for six or seven months of the year, there are 101 things you want to catch up on when you get back. It can even be on the level of having to get your teeth checked by your dentist and it is nice to do simple things like get your wellys on and go for a walk in the country."

He can at least take solace in the settlement of one issue in his maelstrom of a winter. The motor racing press reported that the marketing ploy of his Peugeot and Toyota dealerships near King's Lynn, in offering minus one per cent finance, was under investigation. The suggestion was swiftly rebutted by the trading standards department. "We are satisfied the financial benefits of the promotion were entirely genuine," it said.

If the same can be said of Dennis's resolve to make him a McLaren driver by the beginning of the season, Martin Brundle will be a happy man.

Nastase in return to serve up a volley of one-liners

BY STUART JONES TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

ILIE Nastase insisted on putting the record straight. Flown from Paris yesterday to publicise the first ATP senior tennis tour event in Britain, the charismatic Romanian recalled being disqualified years ago from the semi-final of the hard-court championship in Bournemouth.

A typically over-heated argument over a line-call had prompted the referee, the late Mike Gibson, to intervene. Nastase disagreed with the official's interpretation and asked him how many whistles he had drunk in the clubhouse. It was impudence, not disobedience, which cost him a place in the final.

The tale was poignantly reminiscent of a bygone age. In June, during the week before Wimbledon, Nastase is to join the likes of Rod Laver, Ken Rosewall, Tony Roche and Roger Taylor to compete for four days at Hurlingham. The field of 16 has collected 112 singles and doubles Grand Slam titles between them.

In the words of Mark Cox, another entrant, the nostalgic tournament will offer "tennis in a different vein, full of the refined arts which have been lost. Perhaps it is a senile fantasy". Prize-money of about £75,000 will give the event a competitive edge.

As Romania's Davis Cup team captain, Nastase, keeps in touch with a game which he agrees has become sanitised.

"There were no rules when I played," he said. "Nobody could tell me that I couldn't complain. You can't express your feelings nowadays."

"It is the only sport where you can't say anything because you are so close to the umpire. Everything is so public. That is one of the reasons why everyone plays the same way now. There is more physique than technique and players will only get stronger."

Nastase admits that he became "crazy" whenever he picked up a racket and his antics, as well as those of Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe, were largely responsible for the restrictions being imposed. At Hurlingham, though, he will be free to humour the spectators as he pleases.

At 47 and two stone overweight, his mobility has naturally declined. How fast can he run? "Forwards or backwards?" he asked. "I'm not bad going forwards because of the momentum my stomach gives me."

Unfortunately, the audience at the inaugural event is limited to 1,000 corporate hospitality guests and the 9,500 members of the Hurlingham Club, the nation's biggest tennis club. Only two of the 41 courts will be used.

Milk Race support turns sour

BY PETER BRYAN

A NEW sponsor for the Milk Race, Europe's leading am-pro stage race, has not been found in time to ensure the continuity of the event this year, the British Cycling Federation (BCF) said yesterday.

The end of the Milk Marketing Board's sponsorship, which started in 1958, was inevitable after an EC decision that milk sales should not be subject to a monopoly and that dairy farmers should be allowed to operate in a free market.

The BCF, aware of the board's decision, was confident last November that the 12-day, 1,500-mile race would remain on the international calendar under different sponsorship and reported that negotiations for the event this year were at an "advanced" stage.

But doubts about the continuity of the race were voiced early in January when routing, hotel bookings for riders and

officials and approval from the police authorities had not been completed.

The withdrawal of the board sponsorship was based on the belief that the organisation would be disbanded next month, eight weeks before the traditional race start over the Spring Bank Holiday. Yesterday, a spokesman for the board said that the organisation's break-up was now not likely until the end of November. Had the new date been known earlier, would sponsorship have been continued? "Possibly" was the answer.

Ian Emmerson, president of the BCF, regretted the loss of the national event, which, without the MMB association, would have reverted to its original 1951 title of Tour of Britain. He said: "We have already received encouraging signs for the future of the promotion next year."

Last year, the race, won by Chris Lillywhite, of Britain, was shown daily on Sky Sports and seen en route by more than one million people. "It's a shame for

our home-based riders that there's nothing to replace the Milk Race," Lillywhite, still looking for a 1994 sponsor, said.

The Milk Race contributed much to British sport with the notable introduction eight years ago of a national police escort of 18 motorcyclists that controlled traffic along the route instead of the "handing over of batons" at every county boundary by local police forces.

Another first was the request from Professor Arnold Beckett in 1965 to test riders for drugs, which gave British sport a head start over the rest of the world's introduction of anti-doping controls. Luis Pedros Santamarina, of Spain, the overall leader with one day remaining, tested positive and was disqualified. Les Smith, of Britain, won the race.

The only significant international stage race in Britain this year, apart from the two-day incursion of the Tour de France in July, is the five-day Kellogg's Tour, from August 8 to 12, starting in Glasgow.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	Last snow
ANDORRA	130	220	good	cloud	2 20/2
Alpe d'Huez	150	230	good	cloud	5 24/2
Alpe d'Huez	150	230	good	cloud	5 24/2
Avoriaz	150	230	good	cloud	7 28/2
Flaine	105	310	slushy	slush	4 27/2
Isola	240	300	good	cloud	1 28/2
Val d'Aoste	120	345	good	cloud	2 24/2
SWITZERLAND	10	100	fair	cloud	9 24/2
Grindelwald	50	185	good	cloud	6 24/2
Villars	20	80	slushy	cloud	8 28/2

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial

Clear message from winter wonderland



David Miller, in an open letter to the Prime Minister, urges Britain to heed the lessons of Lillehammer

A truly exceptional social and sporting event has just concluded here in Norway. Perhaps you have had the opportunity to observe some of it and, if so, you are sure to have noticed several characteristics of these seventeenth Winter Olympics.

Foremost of these have been the spontaneous joy of the Norwegian people at the opportunity to be hosts to the world, and the pride and satisfaction that has been generated throughout a country of only four and a half million people by the performance of its team. These are experiences which you believe could and should be attained for the British people, though it has to be admitted that Britain is unlikely to finish second in the medals table.

These Games have enabled

1994, the administration of British sport is still regarded as lightweight and insignificant in the corridors of international influence. The platform for producing medal-winners remains narrow, underfunded and self-dependent to a degree that is not always motivating.

That is not going to change without powerful persuasion and direction from the top. Management determines the success of any enterprise. The British Olympic Association (BOA) does manage our team effectively within the means at its disposal, but the continuing fragmentation of British sports administration, the undermining element of divided authority, leaves us short-changed on the field and dismisses our traditional friends, who look to Britain for leadership and find petty preoccupation with domestic rivalries and relative trivia.

In Olympic sport, Britain is seldom any longer great in any sense. When greatness does occur, as with Overt and Coe, Charles and Gurnell, and, in their way, Torvill and Dean, it tends to be self-generated, despite the system.

This debility is to a degree self-perpetuating. The general attitude of the British press to the Manchester bid was dismissively unhelpful and reaction to the Winter Olympic team has been largely negative; this despite the fact that for the first time two bobsleigh teams in both events have been placed in the top ten, something also achieved only by Switzerland.

Your present minister for sport, Iain Sproule, would not be able to tell you too much about all this. His responsibilities are also fragmented. Far from directing the course of sport, he is still trying to learn about sport. It was a shame that in the 16 days of the Games he was unable to find the time for even one day here to learn about the mood, requirements and attitudes of those who are working energetically in Britain's name, on and off the piste.

The secretary of state for national heritage, Peter Brooke, who has sporting interests, did put in a long weekend, was politely interested without being able to be



Fireworks light up the sky as the Winter Olympics come to an end with a spectacular closing ceremony in Lillehammer

reassuring on further improvements in financing or department support. It was a shade too much a politician's visit. British performance and credibility will only increase when there is a single identifiable national body, preferably an amalgamated organisation called the British Olympic and National Sports Federation, which deals with all elite sport, leaving a more streamlined United Kingdom Sports Council to handle grass-roots developments.

Nobody suggests that "money buys success". This premise has in the past been disproved in other Western European countries, such as France, and is demonstrably less than successful in the

United States. No national Olympic committee has more money at its disposal than the USOC — in excess of \$10 million a year — and its 13 medals here are a poor, almost accidental, reward for its expenditure.

Yet it is worth reflecting on the achievements of Spain, in the last summer Games in Barcelona, and Norway and Russia here. Their respective tally of medals can be directly related to central government funding and support. Nobody wants British winners to be money-motivated rather than sports-motivated, yet that is no excuse for leaving them without adequate opportunities to compete in key preparatory events.

Brooke, during his visit,

heard of the experience of our freestyle skiers who, by saving their daily allowance when accommodated free at one event, were able to pay for their participation in two subsequent World Cup competitions. Is this how we wish to run a national team?

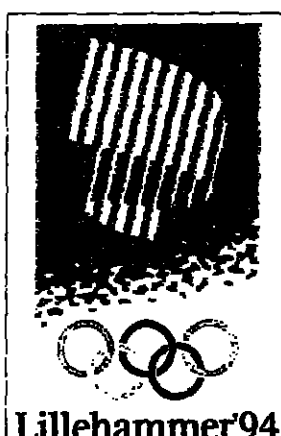
Norway spent £6.6 million per annum between the 1992 Games in Albertville and Lillehammer preparing their summer and winter teams. Britain's government grant for elite sport is some £1.7 million per annum, plus private sector Sports Aid Foundation grants and BOA subsidies. On a population in the pro-rata basis, the government grant to the British team would be £100 million.

Winning a lot of Olympic

medals does not make Norwegians superior. Such superiority as they do have lies in their dedication to the preservation of our natural habitat — evident in their Games organisation — and in their magnanimity towards all races. For the past two weeks they have shown nationalistic fervour, but never at the expense of spontaneous appreciation of every medal-winner of whatever nationality. The Games did not make Norway better; they gave its inhabitants the chance to show what a good people they are.

British people yearn to do the same. Success in the Olympic field is a doorway to self-esteem and foreign approval and is not to be underestimated.

	G	S	B	T
Russia	11	8	4	23
Norway	10	11	5	26
Germany	9	7	8	24
Italy	7	5	8	20
United States	6	5	2	13
South Korea	4	1	1	6
Canada	3	6	4	13
Switzerland	3	4	2	9
Austria	2	3	4	9
Sweden	2	1	—	3
Japan	1	2	2	5
Kazakhstan	1	2	—	3
Ukraine	1	—	1	2
Uzbekistan	1	—	—	1
Belarus	—	2	—	2
Finland	—	1	5	6
France	—	1	4	5
Holland	—	1	3	4
China	—	1	2	3
Slovenia	—	—	3	3
Britain	—	—	2	2
Australia	—	—	1	1



Norway to present their face to the world and to enjoy a collective identity that brings a national sense of confidence and well-being. This is a feeling which we in Britain would like to have.

As someone with an active interest in sport, you have demonstrated your commitment to Britain's attempt to regain international status and recognition by your support last year of Manchester's bid to host the Olympic Games in 2000. The performance of an inspiring team is something different, though the roots of its creation are similarly founded.

The message from Lillehammer is that, although in a modest way the British team achieved better results than in any Winter Olympics since

Unbeaten Thomson makes light work of last rites

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

A MAIDEN Test century by Shane Thomson steered New Zealand to a five-wicket win over Pakistan on the last morning of the third and final Test match in Christchurch yesterday.

Set 324 to win, New Zealand started the day needing 47 with six second-innings wickets standing and completed their task within an hour. In doing so, they reached their highest score to win a Test, surpassing the 278 for eight made against Pakistan in Dunedin in 1985.

Pakistan won the first two matches, by five wickets and an innings and 12 runs respectively, to take the series 2-1. With New Zealand nearing their target, Salim Malik, the Pakistan captain, brought himself on for the tenth over of the morning to bowl his occasional leg breaks and Tony Blair dispatched his third ball over the mid-wicket boundary for six.

Salim then turned to Saeed Anwar, another part-time bowler, and Blair hit the last ball of the over to the long-off boundary for victory.

The match was turned around by a 154-run partnership between Thomson and Bryan Young, whose maiden Test century in his fourth Test anchored the innings.

New Zealand took only 52 minutes to get the runs they needed, despite facing another barrage of hostile bowling from Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram. Their only hiccup came when Young's innings, which lasted nearly seven hours, ended when Wasim bowled him. It was the bowler's 25th wicket of the series.

PAKISTAN: First Innings 344 (Best All 103, Saeed Anwar 66; D.K. Morrison 44 for 102). Second Innings 179 (Best All 67, D.K. Morrison 44 for 66). NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 200 (A.H. Jones 61; Waqar Younis 44 for 78). Second Innings 324 (Best All 103, Saeed Anwar 66; D.K. Morrison 44 for 102). NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 200 (A.H. Jones 61; Waqar Younis 44 for 78). Second Innings 324 (Best All 103, Saeed Anwar 66; D.K. Morrison 44 for 102).

Jury out on southern strategy

As the man who passed the 32nd floor of the Empire State Building after diving off the roof said: "So far so good." Just now, we know the feeling. Having dived south into the "screaming Sixties" latitudes last week in the strong expectation of getting a break on our rivals during the fourth stage of the Whitbread Round the World Race, we are unsure what is going to happen next.

Intrum Justitia is 37 miles ahead of Galicia 93 among the Whitbread 60s in terms of distance to Cape Horn, but well south. We had hoped this north-south divide would have put us further in front.

Unlike the man in free fall, we have the distinct impression that our yacht is somehow connected by a cord to the rest of the fleet. So far, each time we establish a lead, the weather then turns to benefit those behind.

During the next 24 hours the wind is forecast to increase to 50 knots plus, and swing to the west, which means some fast sailing again. But having been disappointed several times already by the poor weather information covering these barren latitudes, we know this storm may not materialise.

We get our weather news from New Zealand, Australia, Chile, Russia and France but all the forecasters are interpolating the same basic information, which for the most part has been wrong.

Part of the problem, per-



Lawrie Smith, Intrum Justitia's skipper, has a weather eye peeled for icebergs as Cape Horn nears

haps, is that these icy seas have been shrouded in thick cloud for the past week. Certainly the satellite pictures we have been downloading into our on-board computer have been almost impossible to interpret, so I guess the Michael Fishes of this world must be equally perplexed.

If the winds do fill in, it could mean that our marginally lead will narrow again. This will be the second time we have built up a significant advantage since leaving New Zealand only for the cord to

lose elasticity and pull the chasing yachts back into the frame. It is frustrating, but having worked hard to put some north-south distance between us and our rivals, we are keeping fingers crossed that the big break will arrive at some stage.

Intrum is spinnaker reaching in a moderate 12-15 knot southerly breeze — perfect ketch weather, which explains why the maxis, New Zealand Endeavour and Merit Cup, have stormed through to the front of the fleet. That will

change only if the promised gale fills in.

Sea and air temperatures are close to zero, but despite the cold, made worse by the wind-chill factor which sets temperatures tumbling several degrees below freezing in the biting winds, we have all stayed clear of illnesses with just two of our number suffering minor colds.

But this is iceberg territory. We have spotted most of the big ones, thanks to moving Intrum's radar antenna well up her mast, but the "growlers", those chunks of ice that break away, are too small to pick out on the small screen. Some are as small as one cubic metre but are still large enough to break a rudder.

Since we see so few of them after dusk, one way on board has suggested that they must go away during hours of darkness. Some hope!

Looking on the bright side, darkness is limited to just four hours a day in these high latitudes and with Cape Horn just four days away, this dangerous period of running the gauntlet will soon be over.

POSITIONS: at 13.00 GMT, with miles to Port: 1. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 2. Merit Cup (P. Fehrmann, SW 3.006), 3. La Galice (E. Lacroix), 4. Endeavour (G. Dutton, NZ 3.048), 5. Varang (Urgi 2.587), 6. Whitbread 60 (J. Varang), 7. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 8. Galicia 93 (Pescanova, U de la Gendarma), 9. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 10. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 11. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 12. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 13. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 14. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 15. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 16. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 17. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 18. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 19. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 20. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 21. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 22. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 23. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 24. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 25. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 26. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 27. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 28. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 29. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 30. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 31. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 32. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 33. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 34. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 35. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 36. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 37. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 38. Intrum (NZ 3.061), 39. 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Unbeaten Thomson makes light work of last rites

By Peter Smith

A MALDEN Test captain, Steve Thomson, has been named in a five-man squad to lead the team against Pakistan in the first of two Tests at the end of the month.

Thomson, who has been unbeaten in 14 Tests, is expected to lead the team in the first Test, which will be played on March 12 at the Oval. He is also expected to lead the team in the second Test, which will be played on March 19 at the Oval.

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- BBC1**
- 6.00 Business Breakfast (18162)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1814536)
 - 9.00 Kilroy. Topical studio discussion (s) (18136246)
 - 9.45 Newsround, News quiz (s) (18121996)
 - 10.00 News. (Ceefax), regional news and weather (18123552) 10.05 Playdays (s) (18145710)
 - 10.30 Good Morning...with Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine (s) (18123594)
 - 12.15 Peppermint. Judi Sifers is joined by actor Kevin Whately (s) (1472807)
 - 12.55 Regional News and weather (20943352)
 - 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (181513)
 - 1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (18140178)
 - 1.50 The Great British Quiz (s) (18144984)
 - 2.15 Columbo. The role of murder proves the biggest challenge of her life for an ageing actress. Starring Peter Falk and Janet Leigh (181604)
 - 3.50 Teddy Trucks (1813326) 3.55 Sick as a Parrot. Crossword puzzle game (s) (18150246) 4.10 Jackanory. Part one of Ted Hughes's *The Iron Woman* (s) (1812784) 4.25 SuperTed (s) (1814868) 4.35 Hanger 17. (Ceefax) (s) (209536)
 - 5.00 Newsround (1775197) 5.10 Grange Hill (s) (Ceefax) (1813449)
 - 5.35 Neighbours (s) (Ceefax) (s) (181513)
 - 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Maryn Lewis and Andrew Harvey. (Ceefax) Weather (97)
 - 6.30 Regional News Magazines (59)



Jill Dando basks in the Florida sun (7.00pm)

- 7.00 Holiday. Jill Dando reports from Florida. Plus Toronto, Stratford-upon-Avon and Morocco. (Ceefax) (s) (2007)
- 7.30 EastEnders (Ceefax) (s) (1)
- 8.00 How Do They Do That? Desmond Lynam highlights some secrets of television and film technique (Ceefax) (s) (181555)
- 8.45 Points of View. With Anne Robinson. (Ceefax) (s) (181557)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Peter Sissons. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (18130)
- 9.30 Crimewatch. A reconstruction of a murder case published on Crimewatch UK. Elizabeth McCormack was murdered two months after telling police she had been raped by a former boyfriend but lack of evidence stopped police charging the chief suspect (s) (181555). Wales: Week in Week Out 10.00 Crimewatch Film 10.50 Omnibus 11.55. 14.00 Film: Pat Joey
- 10.20 Omnibus: Mister Abbott's Broadway (181555) (Ceefax) (s) (181555)
- 11.25 FILM: Pat Joey (1957). Rodgers and Hart musical starring Rita Hayworth, Frank Sinatra and Kim Novak. An ambitious singer joins a seamy nightclub and scores a hit with a wealthy socialite as well as a chorus line girl. Directed by George Sidney (20381)
- 11.00am World Bowls from Preston (s) (1815227)
- 2.10-3.45 BBC Select: Executive Business Club (22111) 3.15 Legal Network Television (25024)

- BBC2**
- 6.45 Open University: Technology. Bridging the Gap (1815775) 7.35 Caring for Data (1815197)
 - 8.00 Breakfast News (Ceefax) (4274807)
 - 8.15 Westminster Daily (1767371)
 - 8.05 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 1.20 The Adventure of Buzzy Bee and Friends (2045836) 1.25 Just So Stories (1815878) 1.35-1.40 Rupert the Bear (18150062)
 - 2.00 News (Ceefax) and weather followed by You and Me (s) (1815171) 2.15 In the Garden. How to plant vegetables under clothes (s) (1815155)
 - 2.30 See Hear! Magazine series for the hearing impaired (s) (181520)
 - 3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather followed by Westminster Live (181771) 3.50 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1812178)
 - 4.00 World Bowls from Preston (s) (2284)
 - 6.00 FILM: Seven Seas to Calais (1962). Rod Taylor stars as Sir Francis Drake in this historical adventure. Directed by Rudolph Mates and Primo Zeglio (4370737)
 - 7.45 Assignment: Collaborators. A documentary about Palestinian informers working for Israel's secret police (177536)
 - 8.30 Food and Drink. Savory chef Anton Edelman prepares a meal for the guests of a woman who claims to be the world's worst cook and Michael Barry tackles steak Diane (s) (181504)
 - 9.00 Quantum Leap: Trilogy. Part Two. Sam is back in 1955 on the eve of his wedding to Abigail. Starring Scott Bakula. (Ceefax) (s) (177449)



Urban scavenger Weston-Webb (9.50pm)

- 9.50 40 Minutes: Portrait of a Mid-life Crisis. A study of a former successful executive who now lives entirely on what people throw away. Andrew Weston-Webb used to have a family and a wealthy lifestyle, now he is known as the Battersea Bushman and scavenges for food outside markets. The breakdown of his marriage led him to walk away from affluence but the seeds of his "separateness" were sown in childhood. (Ceefax) (s) (1815025) Followed by Serjeant - a street under siege
- 10.30 Newsnight with Peter Snow (Ceefax) (205975)
- 11.15 Then and Now. Mahyn Bragg with archive clips (s) (20594)
- 11.55 Weather (1815264)
- 12.00 Newton's Revolution. How Aristotle, Galileo and Newton explained the way things move. With Ron Moody (2750685)
- 12.25am OM Downloaded Video. Draughting (1815547). Ends at 1.25
- 2.00-4.00 Night School: Modern Languages (74181)

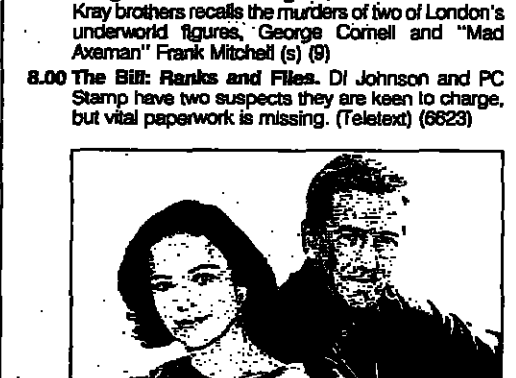
- CHOICE**
- Omnibus: Mister Abbott's Broadway (181555) 10.20pm (Scotland, Thursday 11.30pm)
 - The stars turn out to salute George Abbott as he works on a pre-Broadway revival of one of his many hit musicals, *Damn Yankees*. He is stooped and frail and has to be helped along. But he is in good shape for a man approaching his 107th birthday and, according to his wife, he is not talking about retirement. Fronted by Mark Steyn, the film is an unreserved tribute to a great man of the American musical theatre. The songwriters Betty Comden and Adolph Green sing "New York, New York" from *On the Town*. There are party pieces, too, from Gwen Verdon, who starred in the original *Damn Yankees*, Natalia Makarova and Liza Minnelli. Mister Abbott, as everyone calls him, adds a few salty words of his own.
 - September Song (181555) 11.30pm
 - The sentimental comedy about Ted, the retired teacher, and Billy, the alcoholic clown, returns for a second series, cut to half an hour and relocated from Blackpool to the Mediterranean. In the show's casting against type Russ Abbot is Ted, a comedian playing straight, while Michael Williams, the straight actor, plays Billy. As they join a cruise liner and pad around the ruins of ancient Greece, romance conveniently befalls. Ted is reunited with Katherine (Diana Quick), an old flame he has not seen for 30 years, and Billy chums up with Connie (Diane Keen), a wealthy widow. *September Song* scales no dramatic heights, it is a likeable series which, one suspects, will appeal particularly to viewers of mature years.



Burton and Whately are back on call (11.00pm)

- Peak Practice (181555) 11.00pm
- Since the first series of the Derbyshire-based medical drama notched up audiences of nearly 13 million, a second one was inevitable. Here it is, with twice as many episodes. The mixture is much as before, but why tinker with a successful formula? The surgery continues to be staffed by the dishevelled Dr James (Kevin Whately), the brisk Dr Beth (Amanda Burton) and the impossibly handsome Dr Will (Simon Shepherd). Dr Jack would like to extend his partnership with Dr Beth but she is playing hard to get. Episode one, by the creator of the series, Lucy Gannon, is a typically watchable tale about a young asthmatic whose mother has junked conventional medicine for a faith healer.

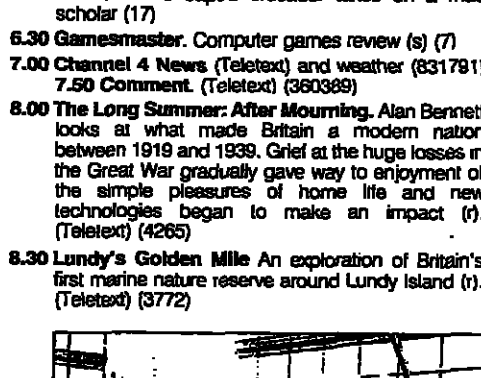
- ITV LONDON**
- 6.00 GMTV (1815748)
 - 9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (1815449) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (1812130)
 - 10.00 The Time...The Place... Topical discussion (s) (1815187)
 - 10.35 This Morning. Weekday family magazine (1811733) 12.20 London Today (Teletext) and weather (1729246)
 - 12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (1811284)
 - 12.55 Emmerdale (s) (Teletext) (18156975) 1.25 Home and Away. (Teletext) (18153888)
 - 1.55 It's a Vets' Life. John Easter interviews a fish vet. Plus, advice on how to keep pets and budgies and a report from the Rare Breeds National Club. (Teletext) (1815557) 2.25 A Country Practice (s) (18153739) 2.50 The Young Doctors (1814738)
 - 3.20 ITN News headlines (1815371) 3.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (1815452)
 - 3.30 Rainbow (1814555) 3.40 Tots TV (s) (1813420) 3.50 Twinkl the Dream Being (1819604) 4.00 Bugdie the Little Helicopter (1817772) 4.15 Mike and Angelo. Adventures of an alien and his human friend (s) (1815371) 4.40 The Tomorrow People. Time travelling drama series. (Teletext) (1814284)
 - 5.10 Home and Away (s). (Teletext) (1815692)
 - 5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (181062)
 - 6.00 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (181488)
 - 7.00 Emmerdale. (Teletext) (18156975)
 - 7.30 Gangsters. Albert Donaghy, a henchman of the Kray brothers recalls the murders of two of London's underworld figures, George Cornell and "Mad Aven" Frank Mitchell (s) (18156975)
 - 8.00 The Bill: Ranks and Files. Di Johnson and PC Stamp have two suspects they are keen to charge, but vital paperwork is missing. (Teletext) (18156975)



Old flames Diana Quick, Russ Abbot (8.30pm)

- 8.30 September Song. (Teletext) (s) (181555)
- 9.00 Peak Practice: In Good Faith (s) (181555)
- 10.00 News At Ten (Teletext) and weather (181533) 10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (181457)
- 10.40 Network First: Top Chef. A documentary following the progress of Britain's top young chefs at the world class of the Pk Plants Tasting in Paris. Lobsters and oysters are among the ingredients used in 14 hours of preparation for cooking classics dishes in a race against the clock. (Teletext) (181401)
- 11.40 Prisoner Cell Block H (1815336)
- 12.30am The Best. Music and film reviews (s) (181404)
- 1.30 FILM: The Scap Merchant (1977) starring John Walters and Cameron Mitchell. Stolen cash puts a small Australian town on the map when it is stashed away there. Directed by Howard Roper (181404)
- 3.30 America's Top Ten (s) (181579)
- 4.00 The Little Picture Show (s) (181573)
- 5.00 Cinema. Cinema. Film reviews (s) (181734)
- 5.30 ITN Morning News (181558) Ends at 6.00

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.35 Jayce and the Wheeled Warriors (s) (1815517)
 - 7.00 The Big Breakfast (1815710)
 - 9.00 Sabotage. All-female quiz game show (s) (1815710)
 - 9.30 Schools: Eureka! Toys and Games (1815743) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen: Where you live (1815743) 10.00 Fourways Farm (1815743) 10.10 Visual World (1815743) 10.20 Timesines (1815743) 10.44 Living (1815743) 11.22 Stage One: Toy Technology (1815743) 11.40 Time Capsule (1815743)
 - 12.00 House To House. Political magazine (1815743)
 - 12.30 Sesame Street. Entertaining early learning series (1815743) 1.30 Alfred J. Kwak (s) (1815743)
 - 2.00 FILM: Centennial Summer (1946). Musical set in Philadelphia in 1976. When Frenchman Cormier Wilde arrives at the Centennial Exposition he causes romantic complications for Jeanne Crain. Directed by Otto Preminger. (Teletext) (1815743)
 - 3.50 Kakanis. Animation (s) (1815743)
 - 3.55 A Brush With Art. A demonstration of how to paint water and reflections (s) (1815743) (1815743)
 - 4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (1815743)
 - 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Thousands of Americans die each year from reactions to prescribed drugs. Here Oprah meets some people who have suffered bad reactions, such as shock and strokes, and survived. (Teletext) (s) (1815743)
 - 5.50 Laurel and Hardy. Animated version (1815743)
 - 6.30 Batman. The caped crusader takes on a mad scholar (17)
 - 6.30 Gamesmaster. Computer games review (s) (7)
 - 7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) and weather (1815718) 7.50 Comment. (Teletext) (1815718)
 - 8.00 The Long Summer After Mourning. Alan Bennett looks at what made Britain a modern nation between 1919 and 1939. Grief at the huge losses in the Great War gradually gave way to enjoyment of the simple pleasures of home life and new technology began to make an impact (s) (1815718) (1815718)
 - 8.30 Lundy's Golden Mile. An exploration of Britain's first marine nature reserve around Lundy Island (s) (1815718) (1815718)



Warring artists Pennington, Goodman (9.00pm)

- 9.00 Without Walls: Degas and Pissarro Fall Out. A dramatised debate between the two artists, played by Michael Pennington (Degas) and Henry Goodman (Pissarro), on the Dreyfus Affair which led to the estrangement of the former friends (s) (1815718) (1815718)
- 10.00 FILM: Pissarro's Island (1988). Ben Kingsley plays a Londoner who goes to the Channel Islands as a tour guide on an Aegean island whose loyalties are severely tested by British archaeologist Helen Merritt. Directed by James Dearden (1815718)
- 11.55 Football Italia - Mezzanotte. Highlights of Italian Serie A (1815718)
- 12.55am Scaphopoda. A profile of Scaphopoda (1815718) (1815718)

- RADIO 1**
- FM Stereo and MW. 4.00am Bruno Brookes (FM only) 7.00 Save Hymns 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Emma Ford 2.00 Mark Goodier 4.00 Nicky Campbell 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 The Story of Pop. Tensations in Love 10.00 Mark Goodier 12.00-4.00am Lynn Parsons (FM only)
- RADIO 2**
- FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15am Paul for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.15am Paul for Thought 9.30am John Bruce 11.30am Jimmy King 12.00am Gloria Hunniford 3.30-5.30am Steve Wright 6.00am John Durrin 7.00am We Stayed in with Junge and Paul 7.30am Hoves Over Britain 8.00am Pauline the Lord We Are a Musical Nation 9.00am The Radio 2 News 10.00am Rhyme and Rhythm: Sounds Like Water 10.30am The Jamiesons 12.00am Steve Moulden 3.00-4.00am Alex Lester
- RADIO 5**
- 6.00am World Service 6.30am Morning Edition 7.00am Europe Today 7.30am Sun for Youngsters 8.15am Radio Number One 8.30am First in Drama: 8.30am World Service 9.15am Radio Number One 9.30am First in Drama: 10.00am World Service 10.15am Radio Number One 10.30am First in Drama: 11.00am World Service 11.15am Radio Number One 11.30am First in Drama: 12.00am World Service 12.15am Radio Number One 12.30am First in Drama: 1.00am World Service 1.15am Radio Number One 1.30am First in Drama: 2.00am World Service 2.15am Radio Number One 2.30am First in Drama: 3.00am World Service 3.15am Radio Number One 3.30am First in Drama: 4.00am World Service 4.15am Radio Number One 4.30am First in Drama: 5.00am World Service 5.15am Radio Number One 5.30am First in Drama: 6.00am World Service 6.15am Radio Number One 6.30am First in Drama: 7.00am World Service 7.15am Radio Number One 7.30am First in Drama: 8.00am World Service 8.15am Radio Number One 8.30am First in Drama: 9.00am World Service 9.15am Radio 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Beardsley returns in reduced squad mixing youth and experience

Venables finds
fresh blend
for England

By Rob Hughes, Football Correspondent

WITH some cunning, Terry Venables put his cards face up on the table yesterday, smiled and left everybody still uncertain about how he will play them. He presented a short-tened squad of 18 for his first match as England coach against Denmark at Wembley on Wednesday week and in it were three new faces and, crucially, one player — Peter Beardsley — brought out of mothballs for his first inclusion in almost three years.

The blending of youth with experience had always been Venables' aim and close to his criticisms when he was a mere television observer of his predecessor, Graham Taylor. In putting together Beardsley, now 33, with Alan Shearer, the goalscoring potency is obvious. In bringing in Darren Anderton, 22 this Thursday, Venables has gone to the other extreme of the age and inexperience spectrum.

He described Beardsley as "invaluable to us". Venables agreed that Beardsley has been remarkable for Newcastle United this season, remarkable for his fitness and for the way he prompts and brings the best out of other, younger apprentices around him.

Hinting that Anderton, the one player in the squad who can be described as a winger or "wide" player, Venables waxed lyrical about a youngster for whom he paid £2 million when manager of Tottenham Hotspur two years ago. "Darren had a terrific period in the last two-thirds of last season and since then he's actually grown stronger."

Venables admires Anderton's range of passing, his ability to cross the ball with either foot, his willingness to go in and finish moves and, above all, his adaptability to play on the wing, in attack or coming through from midfield. That word — adaptability — cropped up in many of Venables' musings about the task. He knows that England is a shallow pool, short of genuine technically-gifted performers and it is why he also included in the squad Mat-

thew Le Tissier, Southampton's maverick performer. Acknowledging that Le Tissier can be an exasperating player, Venables took off the gold-rimmed spectacles that are a new part of his own ageing process and said: "I've always admired the way he plays. Like a lot of talented players, he will sometimes let you down, but there's so much ability there, I have to have him in the group to find out what he can achieve at this level."

Le Tissier was one of two Channel Islanders Venables named, the first from those islands in a full England

Taylor era. Venables has quite pointedly gone back for the wisdom of Don Howe to assist him and for the former captain, Bryan Robson, to begin a coaching career with England. Moreover, he has re-recruited Dave Sexton to teach the Under-21 players and, working with him, are Ray Wilkins and, as goalkeeping coach, Peter Bonetti.

There are ways of going back without being retrograde, just as there is common sense in modern sport in discarding the philosophy of judging performers by their birth certificates. That is the charge outstanding against Taylor, though it is ironic that Venables, because of England's failure, now has a luxury Taylor could never contemplate — two years in which to mix and to blend players without having the pressure of the necessity of winning matches.

Venables heard the words flair and entertainment describing his selection. He begged to differ: "It is not to do with flair, but it has to do with having imagination. We're not there to play pretty football, even with trying to build a team for two years time we have also to win matches, but we know that we have to find quality if we can and this obviously is what I am searching for."

The one subject that Venables has yet to address is the captaincy. He said that will come in a week's time, because some of those he has chosen he has yet to meet face to face and the men under consideration should, in such an important role, be the first to know. The betting amongst those who think of themselves as informed is that Tony Adams, Arsenal's rugged defender, will be chosen.

Though Venables has not named an XI, it would not be surprising if it ultimately reads: Seaman, Jones, Adams, Pallister, Le Tissier, Anderton, Ince, Gascoigne, Platt and Shearer.

Andrew Longmore, page 43



Venables appears relaxed as he announces his new-look England squad in London yesterday

Cooke ends
seven-year
reign as
England
managerBy David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

GEOFF Cooke, manager of England's rugby union team for the past seven years, will step down after the final five nations' championship game of this season, against Wales at Twickenham on March 19.

His decision to resign, announced five days before Saturday's critical game against France in Paris, has shocked both Rugby Football Union (RFU) officials, who believed he would remain in his honorary post until after next year's World Cup, and the senior players who, under his regime, have found a stability which helped them to two grand slams in 1991 and 1992 and a World Cup final in 1991.

Cooke, 52 and assistant to the chief executive of the National Coaching Foundation in Leeds, made the decision because of increasing toll his unpaid role was taking on his business and domestic life. "I believe it is in the best interests of the England team for me to end my involvement at the end of the current five nations' championship," Cooke said. "By making this clear now, it will allow the RFU sufficient time to appoint my successor, particularly in view of the summer tour to South Africa."

Cooke, appointed in October 1987 after the short-lived tenure of Mike Weston, told the senior players of his decision during the weekend's squad preparation for Saturday's game against France. Will Carling, appointed captain by Cooke in 1988, said the decision "would cause a sense of loss, not only for me but for all the England players, past and present, who have played for him."

Rob Andrew, whose international career began in the period of mediocrity two years before Cooke's appointment, said: "He has changed everything in rugby at international level. His record is unprecedented. It took a very special person to do that and his successor will need to be a very special person."

"I doubt if people will give him all the credit he deserves which is sad and a reflection on how people view those who are successful. They forget what it was like before him."

Cooke's legacy, page 44
Cup draws, page 44

Fletcher encouraged by first report on Malcolm



Malcolm: knee injury

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN ST VINCENT

DEVON Malcolm could be fit again in time to lead the England attack in the final two Test matches of this Caribbean tour, after an initial, encouraging report from Manchester on his damaged right knee.

Malcolm, who flew home at the weekend with the implicit fear that his tour was over, underwent a scan yesterday which, crucially, eliminated the possibility that his cartilage was torn. The cautious prognosis of "fluid and debris in the knee-joint" is to be verified by exploratory surgery today, but it may need a further ten days before any firm decision can be taken about his return to the West Indies.

"We'll wait," was the reaction of a relieved team manager, Keith Fletcher. "This is good news, because he obviously hasn't ripped the cartilage. If it's just a matter of clearing the rubbish out of the joint, as now seems likely, we could have him fully fit again in three weeks."

Fletcher, however, conceded that Malcolm will not play in the second Test, which starts in Guyana in 16 days' time, and that, as the third Test follows immediately, he would logically miss that, too. "It would be risky to rush him straight back into a Test," he said. "A realistic target is the four-day game in Grenada which comes before the last two Tests."

This remains dependent on a positive outcome of today's surgery. If the surgeon advises a longer period of

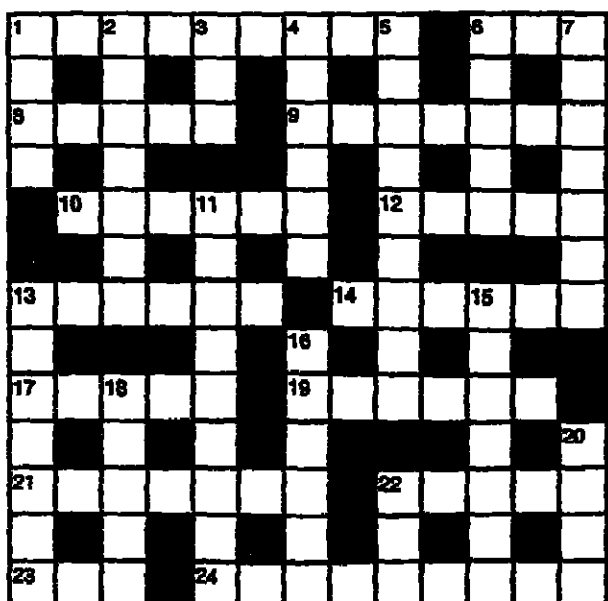
rest, the tour management would then have a different decision to take. "If he was ruled out of the tour completely, I think we would have to send for a replacement," Fletcher said, "but we are certainly prepared to hang on ten days for the verdict."

All six of England's fast bowlers have suffered injury or ailment on the tour, even if Chris Lewis's problem with the sun was self-induced. The consequent strain on selection had begun to tell on Fletcher, who was much cheered by this better news of Malcolm and by the recovery of Andy Caddick from an infected foot.

After the longest day of travelling they will undergo on this tour, most of the England side rested yesterday. Four players did practise, in typically Caribbean setting on a strip cut out of

a rough field, the sea to one side and spectacular hills to the other. Jack Russell practised because it is a religion to him. Robin Smith because he is unhappy with his game. For Mark Ramprakash and Nasser Hussain, the session had a different purpose, for there will be room for only one of them in the one-day international tomorrow and each appearance now is a rare chance to impress. Hussain and Ramprakash, the batsmen omitted from the first Test team, are direct rivals within a shrinking tour itinerary. Once the one-day matches are concluded this week-end, only one four-day game, in Guyana, remains before the third and fourth Tests are played back-to-back.

New Zealand's triumph, page 46



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TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD
No 101

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Silent water-birds (4,5) | 1 State of mind (4) |
| 4 Consume (3) | 2 Player challenging for ball (7) |
| 8 Film award (5) | 3 Respectful title (3) |
| 9 Disperse (7) | 4 Patron saint of Scotland (6) |
| 10 Oozy deposit (6) | 5 Textiles (4,5) |
| 12 Make a stab at answer (5) | 6 Give the slip to (5) |
| 13 Member of Latter-day Saints church (6) | 7 Locks of hair (7) |
| 14 Forms unspoken words (6) | 11 Robot bomb used against London (9) |
| 17 Wicked person; junior barrister (5) | 13 Check-up by doctor (7) |
| 19 Outcome (6) | 15 Soundly defeat (7) |
| 21 Diameter of bore; distinction (7) | 16 Excellent (6) |
| 22 Dance for long line (5) | 18 Comfortable house (5) |
| 23 Meadow (3) | 20 Farm building (4) |
| 24 Intermediary (2-7) | 22 Share; pointedly ignore (3) |

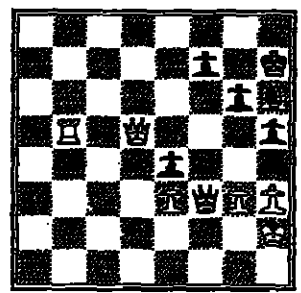
SOLUTION TO NO 100

ACROSS: 7 French polish 9 Hundred 10 Ton-up 11 Posey 12 Cyclical 15 Innuendo 17 Avon 19 Three 21 Figures 22 Night-dresses

DOWN: 1 Grandson 2 Angry 3 Shoddy 4 Hostile 5 Mien 6 Shapeliness 8 Shoplifting 13 Coverlet 14 Beneath 16 Delfy 18 Agate 20 Rage

By Raymond Keene

Today's position is from the game Illescas - Bareev, Linares 1992. How did Black prise open the white kingside?



Solution, page 42

Raymond Keene, page 7

By Philip Howard

LARACH
a. A cowboy's whip
b. The site of a building
c. To boast

METRETE
a. A scarlet woman
b. A Venetian gallery
c. A liquid measure

PROCELLOUS
a. A type of hermit
b. A single-celled creature
c. Stompy

REP
a. A loose woman
b. A type of brick-laying
c. To cheat

Answers on page 42

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